# AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

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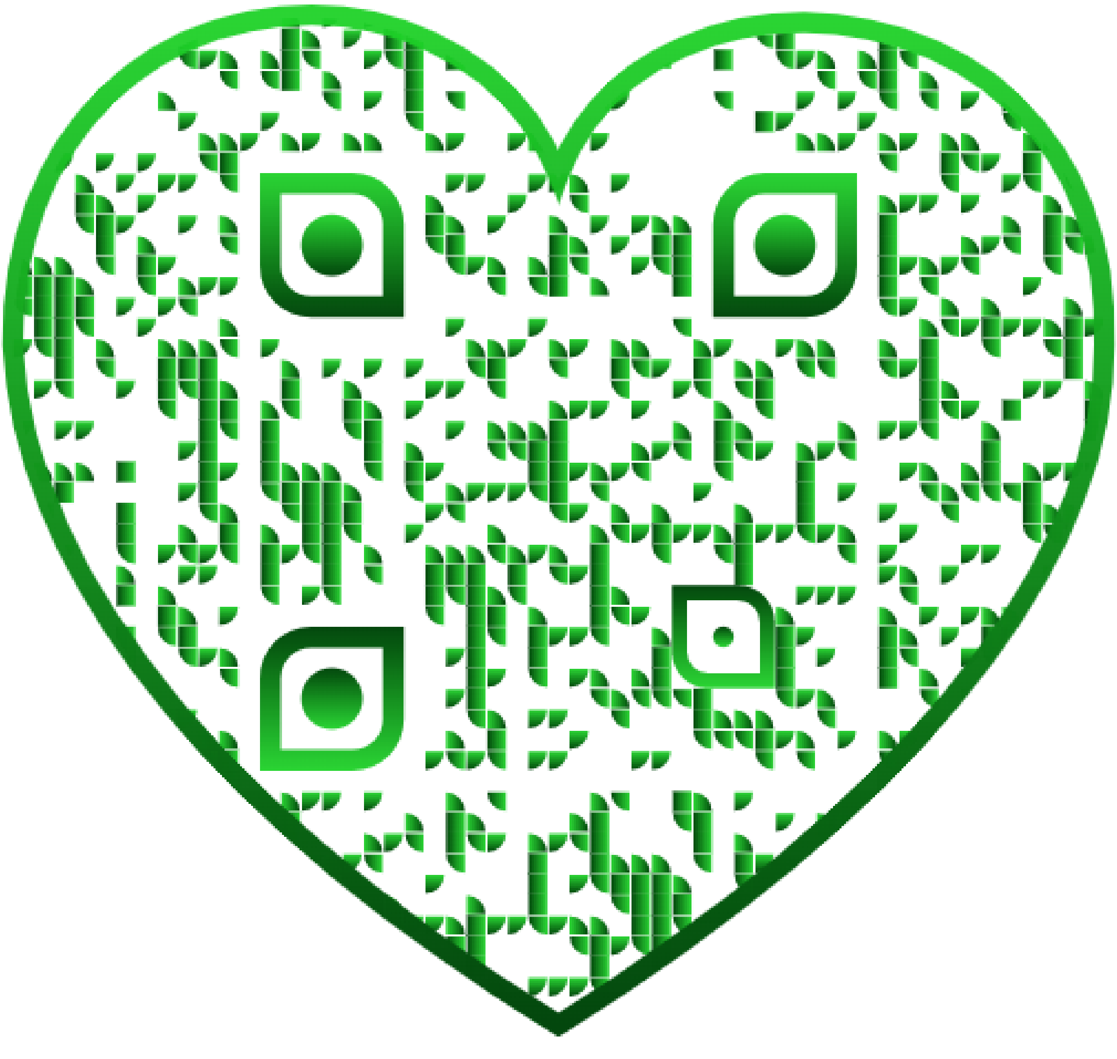

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# JANUARY

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AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

*Editor* Gavin Kirk – gavin.kirk@aremedia.com.au
*Creative director* Antonietta Panuccio
*Features editor* Bethan Lacoba
*Senior copy editor* Debbie Duncan

ART AND STYLE
*Art director* Marissa Foye
*Stylist* Sophie Wilson

DIGITAL
*Digital editor* Kate Hassett
*Senior content producers* Danielle Grover, Grace Flynn, Saskia Neacsu
*Features writer* Rachel White
*Social content producer* Jackson McLean

CONTRIBUTORS
Bree Banfield, Jackie Brygel, Holly Byrne, Kirstie Clements, Sophia Conley, Amanda Cordony, Lisa Cohen, Claire Delmar, Sean Fennessy, Tom Ferguson, Andrea Healy, Stephanie Hope, Holly Irvine, Leila Jeffreys, Alana Landsberry, Olga Lewis, Jessica Lillico, Andy Macpherson, Hanna Marton, Jack Milenkovic, Christopher Morrison, Astrid Mulder, Nonci Nyoni, Judy Pascoe, Chris Pearson, Victoria Pearson, Melissa Penfold, Prue Ruscoe, Room on Fire, Toby Scott, Anson Smart, Nat Spada, Fiona Susanto, Lauren Trompp, John Paul Urizar, Pablo Veiga, Andrea Veltom, Isabella Walker-Smith, Lesley Workman.

ADVERTISING
*Head of commercial – Homes & Lifestyle* Rhyl Heavener
*Head of sales – NSW* Jimmy Kerr
*Head of sales – Vic* Nisar Malik
*Head of sales – Qld* Judy Taylor
*All advertising enquiries* advertising@aremedia.com.au

SYNDICATION syndication@aremedia.com.au, contentshop.com.au

ARE MEDIA CORPORATE
*Chief executive officer* Jane Huxley
*Finance director* Marena Paul
*Director of sales* Anna Quinn
*Director of content* Sally Eagle
*General manager – Homes & Lifestyle* Jocelin Abbey
*Director of marketing* Carly Bowra

SUBSCRIPTION SALES & ENQUIRIES
**Magshop** GPO Box 5252, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia
**Phone** 136 116 (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm AEST) **Web** magshop.com.au
**All other *Australian House & Garden* enquiries** (02) 9282 8000

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## *H&G* social

*Our posts that made your month.*

A 1910 sandstone cottage on Sydney's Northern Beaches stole hearts on Facebook. On Instagram, a reconfigured six-bedroom rural property in NSW was a real drawcard, while a Palm Springs-inspired entertainer captured all the attention on Pinterest.

**Facebook facebook.com/australianhouseandgarden**
Highlights from each issue plus links to tours of our favourite homes.

**Instagram @houseandgarden**
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**Pinterest pinterest.com.au/houseandgardenau**
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Portrait photography by Lauren Trompp.

# My earliest memory of wellness was eating an apple a day.

Now it's all about plunging into icy cold water, dipping into magnesium pools and sweating it out in saunas with disco-like infrared lighting – all in the name of feeling good, looking better and living longer. In this issue, from page 38, we explore some of the at-home equipment options out there, with advice from leading voices in the field to get your mind into gear. Could that spare room or basement become a home gym or a Venustus-tier spa?

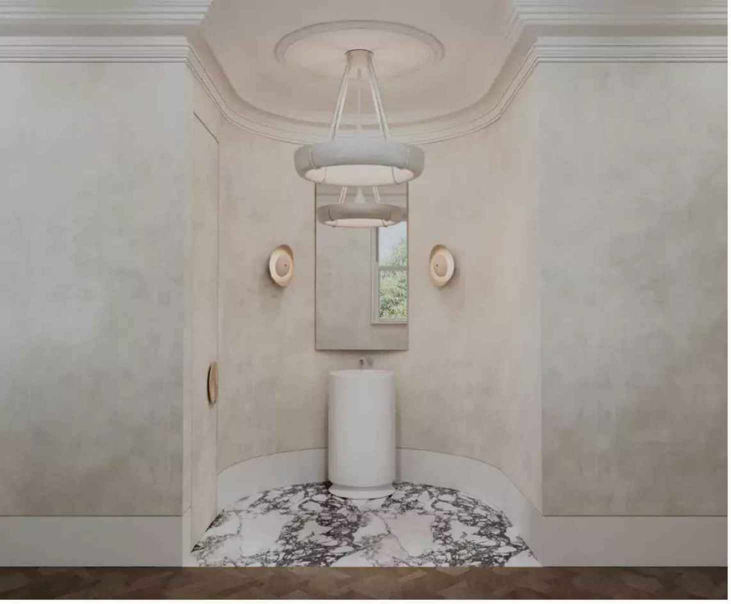
But what exactly is wellness? For photographer Sean Fennessy and stylist Jessica Lillico, it was the fulfilment they found in buying and restoring a Modernist home – an experience that sparked a new endeavour they never expected. So taken were they with their own abode, and the people they met along the way, that they began documenting similar residences across Victoria, culminating in a new book titled *Bush Modern*. Writer and Mid-century Modern enthusiast Chris Pearson speaks with the pair, from page 18, and highlights a selection of standout homes uncovered in its pages.

Turning this month's Stylescape feature into a haven for home-spa lovers, stylist Sophie Wilson shares her wellness ways from page 34. She spotlights the little pieces and products that bring comfort and pampering into everyday routines, and reimagines a relaxing bathroom scheme underscored by the colours of the moment: pinks, berry and terracotta. Sophie also serves up style elsewhere this issue, with shapely vessels she's loving throughout the home, from page 56.

If there's one thing made clear by the gorgeous houses in this issue, it's that there's no singular design aesthetic guiding the spaces we inhabit. From the minimalist Sunshine Coast abode (page 79) where Sophia Conley of Renegade Design Studio lovingly rejuvenated a home originally designed by her father, to the colour-filled haven in Sydney by EB Interiors (page 104), and an *H&G* Smaller Spaces feature on the redesign of a Melbourne apartment for a young family by Dijana Moisis of Studio Ora (page 144), these homes all share a desire to nurture moments with those who matter most.

In the same spirit as Sean and Jessica realising a dream in restoring their beloved Fisher House, we step inside the renovations of four Federation-era homes, each shaped by the different needs of the people who live in them. There's the colourful entertainer for a family craving more space, by Altus Design Studio (page 92). A bright reimagining of a family home, complete with abundant storage, by Cote Interiors (page 120). A transformation of a home that's moved beyond the small-kids stage and now meets the creative needs of their parents, thanks to the interior design team at Levine Vokaberg, who have even added a "shiraz cave" (it's not what you might expect), on page 132. Plus, from page 154, an Edwardian facade (not quite Federation, but in Sydney the labels often overlap) becomes the threshold to an entirely new level – or two – of unexpectedness, created by Toby Breakspear of BRKSPR. It's a jam-packed January issue, so enjoy and... be well!

**GAVIN KIRK, EDITOR**



## 01. STATELY UNION

A meeting of modern Australian luxury and master craftsmanship, the David Hicks x Apaiser 'Louis' collection reimagines the ritual of bathing through sculptural forms inspired by the grand traditions of Versailles. *davidhicks.com; apaiser.com.*

## 02. WAXING LYRICAL

Among the collection of wares from Kate Nixon Studio, the 'Alba' wall sconce stands out for its vintage charm, illuminating vignettes with its sweet taper candle holder. Add to cart at *katenixon.com.*

# *Golden hours*

THE BEST NEW AND NOTEWORTHY THINGS TO SEE, BUY AND DO

COMPILED BY *Gavin Kirk*

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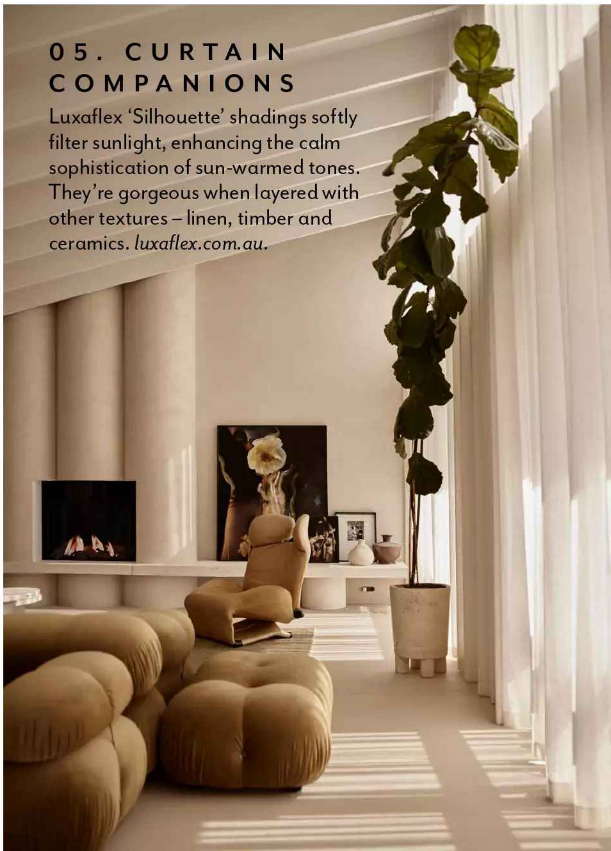
## 03. RAISING SPIRIT

Adelaide Hills-born winery Bird in Hand is well regarded for a good drop. New from the label's whiskey brand, The Bird, is the aptly named 'Bird' – a lighter, brighter malt "made for sharing," say whiskey lovers and The Bird co-founders Mark Bouris, Andrew Nugent and Paul Giles. *birdinhand.com.au.*

## 04. NEAT & COMPLETE

Hand-cut and lead-free, the crystal 'Dorset' old-fashioned glasses from Williams Sonoma reflect light with every pour. Balanced for cocktails or whiskey on the rocks, they bring sparkling elegance to every sip and table scene. *williams-sonoma.com.au.*



## 05. CURTAIN COMPANIONS

Luxaflex 'Silhouette' shadings softly filter sunlight, enhancing the calm sophistication of sun-warmed tones. They're gorgeous when layered with other textures – linen, timber and ceramics. *luxaflex.com.au.*

### 06. IN THE LOOP

Available in natural and tea-coloured finishes, the 'Akora' round crocheted bread baskets are as handy on the table as they are as catch-alls by the front door, in the bedroom or home office. *tanora.com.au.*

### 07. SPHERES OF BRILLIANCE

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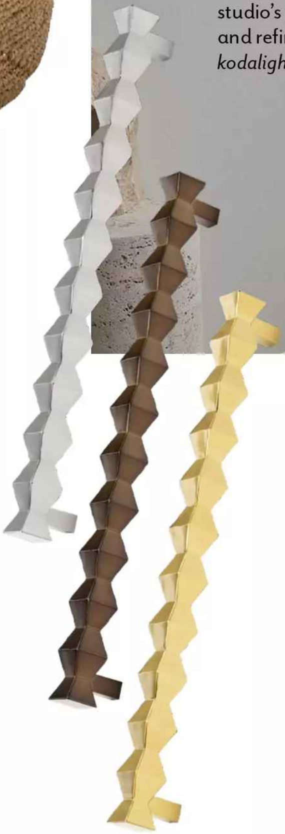
## 08. SPOT ON

Treat your pooch to a new summer wardrobe of accessories from the Hay Dogs range, by Danish lifestyle brand Hay, where striped collars and braided leads are joined by patterned beds, colourful bowls and star-studded scarfs. *hayshop.com.au.*



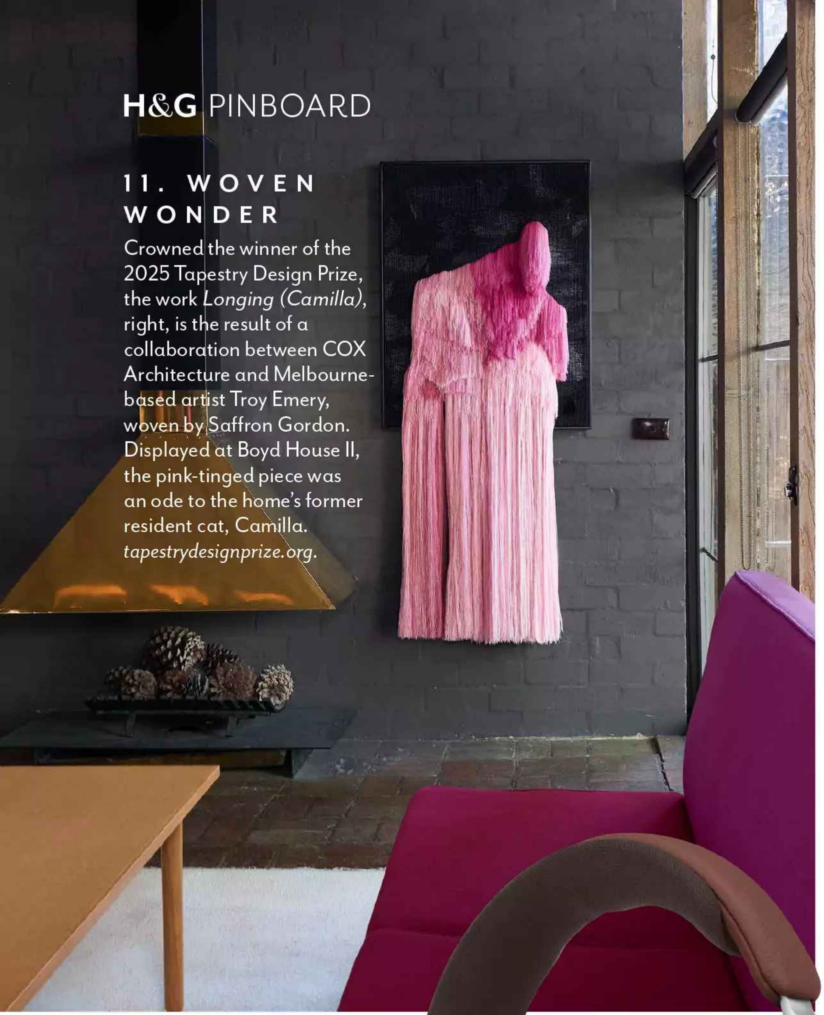
### 09. SHAPE SHIFTERS

South Australian hardware company Lo & Co partnered with Sydney's SMAC Studio to fashion the Art Deco-inspired 'Forma' collection. Available in marble and brass, the handles, levers, knobs and privacy turns in the range flaunt striking silhouettes and bespoke finishes. *smacstudio.com.au; loandcointeriors.com.au.*

## 10. BOOTS & ALL

"So much work has gone into this space," says Dani Pearce, founder of Australian gumboot brand Merry People, as the brand opens its first boutique, 11 years after debuting at weekend farmers' markets. Drop by Shop 2 at 11, Manchester Lane, Melbourne. *merrypeople.com.* ▶

FERGIE BOOT



### 11. WOVEN WONDER

Crowned the winner of the 2025 Tapestry Design Prize, the work *Longing (Camilla)*, right, is the result of a collaboration between COX Architecture and Melbourne-based artist Troy Emery, woven by Saffron Gordon. Displayed at Boyd House II, the pink-tinged piece was an ode to the home's former resident cat, Camilla. *tapestrydesignprize.org.*

## 12. PASTORAL PLATES

Chef Jake Kellie (of Arkhé fame) has unveiled a new chapter at Orleana, introducing his first à la carte menu at the restaurant since being appointed culinary director. Presented within the luxurious surrounds of the Kingsford The Barossa estate, the menu tells a tale of place and provenance. *kingsfordbarossa.com.au.*

### 13. IKKARI & EVE

The Eve Hotel in Sydney invites guests to embrace a golden summer with poolside and in-room wellness rituals by Ikkari to help reset, revive and refresh, plus sunrise yoga, Pilates and breathwork classes by Scout Studios. A luxe escape beckons at *theevehotel.com.au.*

### 14. HEAR HERE

To celebrate 100 years of sound and design, Bang & Olufsen's ultimate over-ear 'Beoplay H100' headphones, with titanium drivers and adaptive noise cancellation, have been released in a sleek limited-edition Century Brown colourway. *bang-olufsen.com/en/au.*

## 15. SUMMER OF CITRUS

Néroli Sauvage eau de parfum by Creed is described by the fragrance house as "exquisitely juicy" – and for good reason. It's brimming with citrusy notes of sweet orange, grapefruit, lemon and bergamot. *creedperfume.com.au.* **H&G**

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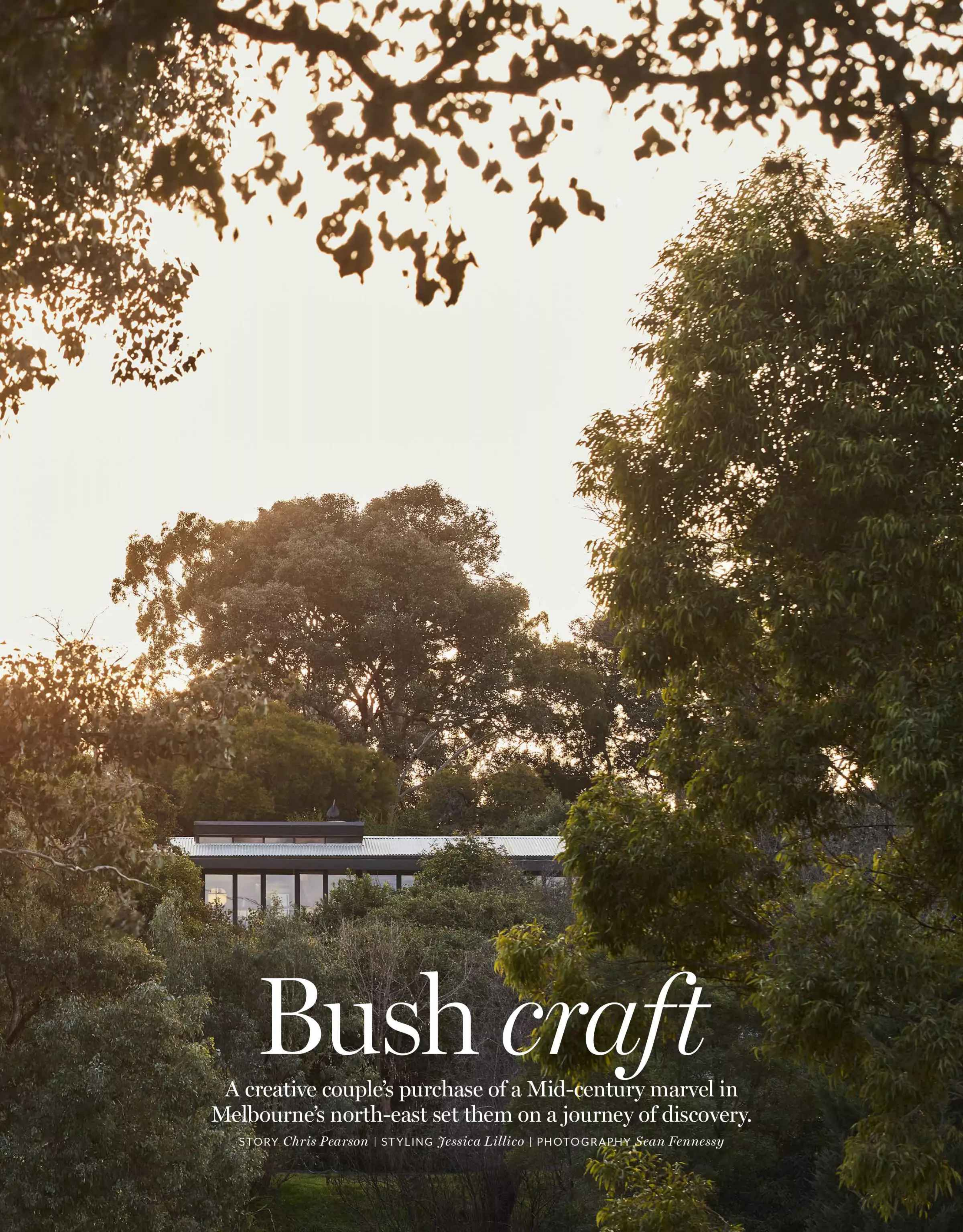
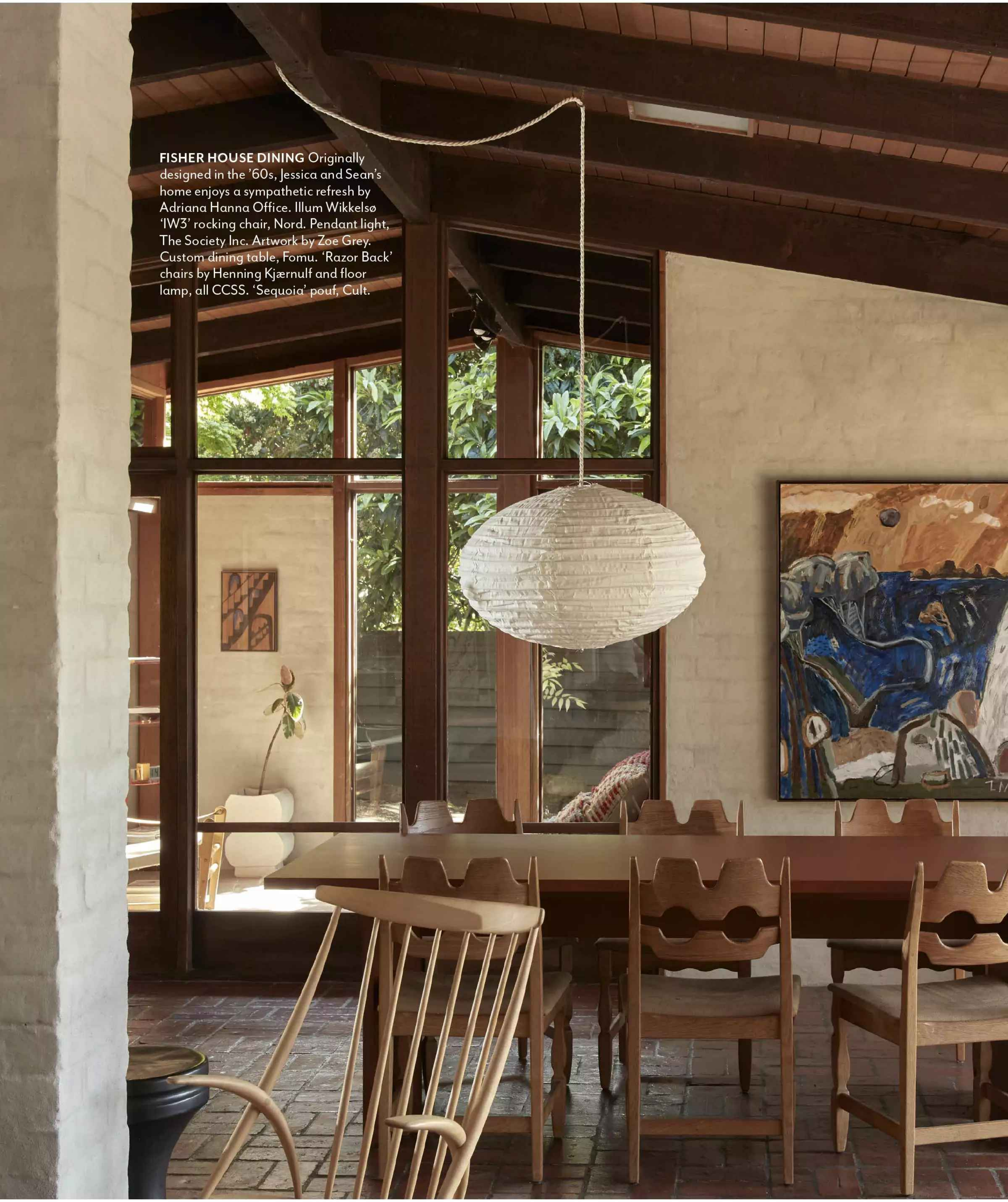


# Bush *craft*

A creative couple's purchase of a Mid-century marvel in Melbourne's north-east set them on a journey of discovery.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Jessica Lillico* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Sean Fennessy*

**AUTHORS AT HOME** After purchasing their own Mid-century home, stylist Jessica and photographer Sean, pictured, were so captivated by the architecture that they created a book featuring 23 similar houses to celebrate this design era. Table, Fomu. Dining chairs by Henning Kjærnulf, CCSS. Pendant, The Society Inc. Artwork by Zoe Grey. Stool, Porcelain Bear. Chair, Open Room. **OPPOSITE** From the pages of *Bush Modern*, the Fisher House sits inconspicuously in its bush setting.



**FISHER HOUSE DINING** Originally designed in the '60s, Jessica and Sean's home enjoys a sympathetic refresh by Adriana Hanna Office. Illum Wikkelsø 'IW3' rocking chair, Nord. Pendant light, The Society Inc. Artwork by Zoe Grey. Custom dining table, Fomu. 'Razor Back' chairs by Henning Kjærnulf and floor lamp, all CCSS. 'Sequoia' pouf, Cult.

"We wanted something with architectural merit."

JESSICA LILLICO, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, STYLIST & OWNER

There must be something in the soil, and in the air among the gum trees, in Melbourne's north-eastern fringe, where city meets bush. It became rich and fertile ground for a plethora of Mid-century homes, melding the earthy colours and textures of the bush with the airy simplicity of Modernism. Relatively recent arrivals, photographer Sean Fennessy and creative director and stylist Jessica Lillico were equally smitten when they found their three-bedroom house in Warrandyte in 2019, even if it was in need of some attention. Little did they know that their new home would change the course of their professional, and personal, lives.

They had moved from a chic apartment in inner-city Brunswick. "We wanted more space," says Sean. "We often came out here for day trips and were captivated by the architecture. It's secluded, but just 25km from the city by freeway. A simple rectangular pavilion, it would require nothing structural and its bones were good."

"We wanted something with architectural merit and had looked at quite a few homes in the area," adds Jessica. "And this was largely untouched, having been owned by one family for 50 years."

Designed by architect Alistair Knox in 1969, it had all the hallmarks of what the couple dubs "bush modern", including open-plan living, lashings of natural light, pitched timber-beamed ceilings, split levels, brick floors, clerestory windows and textured walls, with the bush ever-present through walls of glazing. Combining rawness with simplicity, the style was packed with paradoxes – open yet cossetted, organic yet structured.

The happy find was named the Fisher House after the first owner, a Ms Fisher, of whom nothing is known. But she soon sold it to a young family who called it home for half a century. Most of it remained intact, just tired, although the garden was a wilderness, says Sean. So first, the couple set about clearing the "overgrown, cottage-style garden", removing noxious weeds that had engulfed welcome native plants such as banksia, tea tree and bottlebrush. ▶

## FISHER HOUSE

This home nurtured Jessica and Sean's abiding passion for 'bush modern' architecture. Designed by architect Alistair Knox in 1969, it was named after its first owner, a Ms Fisher, who soon sold it to a family. Amazingly, these second owners held it until the couple bought it in 2019.

It was beautifully intact, just needing some tweaks, designed by Melbourne architect Adriana Hanna, such as a new kitchen and bathroom, to bring it into the 21st century. But its materiality and palette remained mindful of the past, while adding a modern twist.

**FISHER HOUSE MAIN BEDROOM** Joinery by AKWT. Pendant light, Space. Bedhead, McMullin. Bed linen, In Bed. **LIVING** *Opposite, top and bottom right* Timber wall stained Classic Brown, Grimes & Sons. Built-in sofa in Mokum 'Alpaca' velvet, Adriana Hanna Office. Coffee table, Zachary Frankel. Pendant light, Space. 'The Frame' television, Samsung. Chair and stool, Open Room. Artwork by Paul Williams. **KITCHEN** *Opposite, bottom left* Joinery by AKWT. 'Voda' tapware, Sussex Taps. Kettle, Alessi.

After engaging architect Adriana Hanna, they set about renovating the home for them and their two children, Matilda, now seven, and Ray, four. "We wanted to modernise it, without it feeling like a contemporary version of what it was," says Sean. The only structural changes were to replace a walk-in with a main ensuite and to renovate the adjoining bathroom and the kitchen. These were finished with a nod to the original materiality using terracotta-tiled benchtops, recycled timber and brass tapware, "so these rooms looked like they had always been there".

The laundry was combined with the bathroom, freeing up a corner of the kitchen where they added a study area. In the living room, they installed timber shelving and a built-in banquette as a "homage to the conversation pit of the original era," adds Sean. "As there is only one living space, we made it comfortable with a built-in." In recycled Oregon, the built-in echoes the original jarrah timbers on the joinery and pitched ceilings. They applied textured pale render to the brick walls, a nod to the mudbricks used on some neighbouring properties. The brick floors just had a spruce up. "And original grasscloth wallpaper in the main bedroom came into its own," he says. "Too much texture is never enough."

Landscape designer Miniscape Projects was engaged to create order out of the garden chaos by swapping out exotic trees and shrubs for less thirsty natives.

And how do they use their newfound Mid-century treasure? "The built-in banquette is where we usually end up, or in the small sunroom at the end of the house, where we read, or we might sit at the robust kitchen table doing work or crafts," says Sean.

"I love the open fire in the living room – Melbourne winters can stretch out."

"I love the connection to the garden," says Jessica. "The facade comprises six pairs of doors on the same level as the garden, so you can open them all up. When I am at the kitchen table, I can enjoy garden on both sides." ▶

This labour of love didn't just give them a smart new home. It also sparked a passion for this style of architecture, given physical form in a new book called *Bush Modern: Hand-crafted Homes on the Edge of the City* (Thames & Hudson), with text by Jessica and images by Sean. It profiles 23 homes, built from 1940 to 2001, in locations from Warrandyte to Eltham, all of which embrace bush and sky. The catalyst for the movement was post-war building material shortages in the 1940s, explains Sean, combined with a desire for a nonconformist lifestyle away from the suburbs.

Citing iconic architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin as his muses, Knox was a driving force behind the movement, designing more than 1200 homes from 1946 to 1986, with most concentrated here. "He was prolific in this area and a great fan of a simple modernist aesthetic offset by authentic, earthy materials," says Jessica. But this style eventually went out of fashion, labelled "too brown". Come the minimalist 1990s, the walls and ceilings of many homes were smoothed over, with earthy browns and ochres yielding to crisp, and some would say anodyne, whites. "Plasterboard has no place in these houses, which are so textured and layered - you can't turn them into something entirely the opposite," says Jessica. "This was all about keeping things natural, with mudbricks, terracotta bricks and timber."

"In the course of looking for our house, we found lots that had been whitewashed and were unrecognisable," adds Sean. "I was passionate about recording and documenting the original ones or those updated faithfully. Jess became passionate, too, so then we embarked on a two-year journey producing the book."

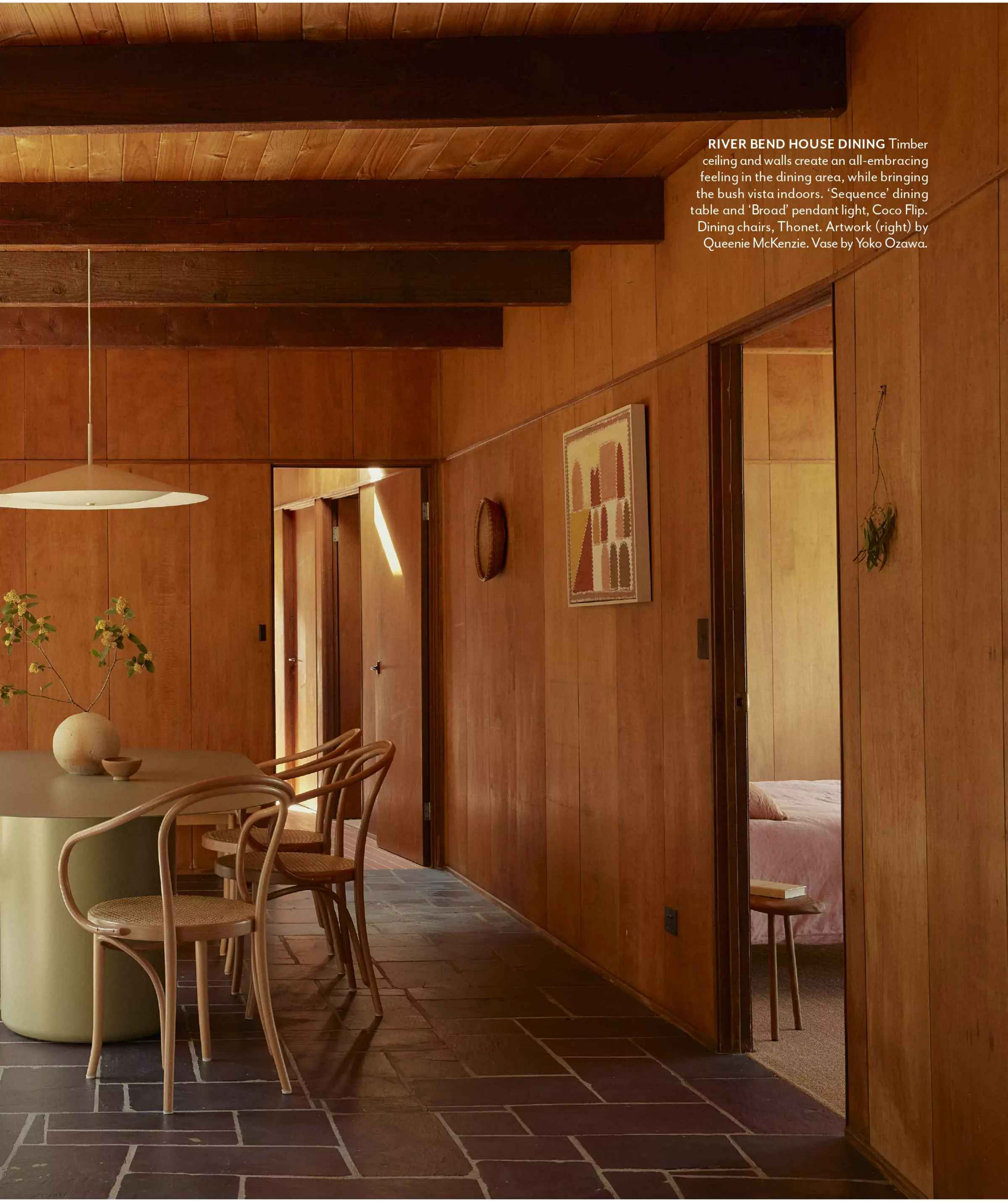
The couple asked around the neighbourhood, through Instagram and anywhere they could. "It felt like a treasure hunt," says Jessica. "We started out with houses where we had a connection with friends and then reached further afield. We drove around and letterboxed, approached community forums, as well as the local Historical Society and the Mudbrick Society [yes, there is such a thing] and scoured realestate.com.au."

As is often the case, the family will soon outgrow this handsome house. "But we love being on the outskirts of town for the rural bush experience, and Knox did design some larger houses," says Jessica, hopefully, of the next chapter in their story. "Or we might build our own, with nods to the era," adds Sean. ▶

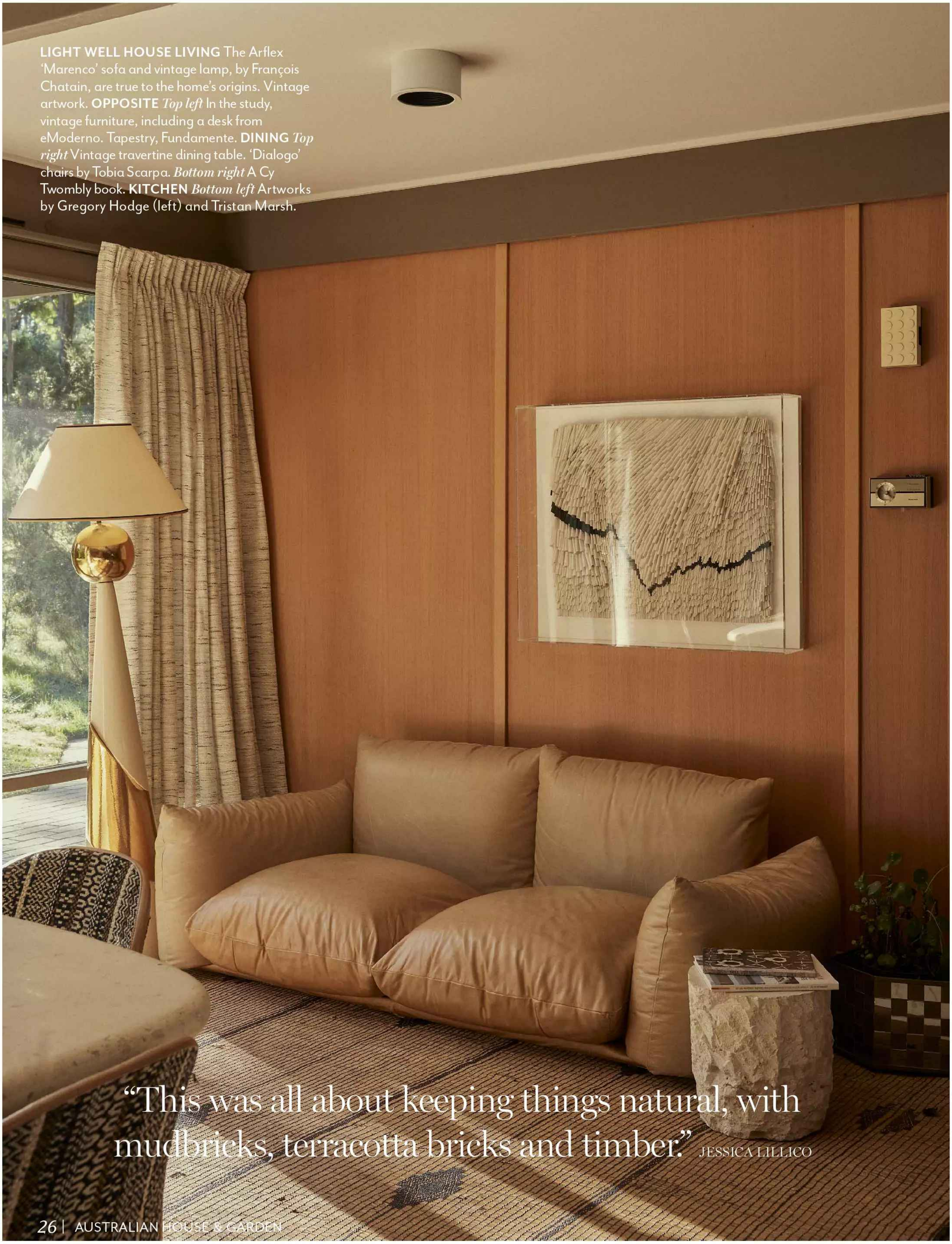
***Bush Modern:*** *bushmodern.com.au.*

**RIVER BEND HOUSE**

Overlooking the Birrarung (Yarra) River, this home was designed by Alistair Knox in 1968 for the Cumin family. It narrowly escaped the Victorian Government's push to demolish homes to establish the city's green belt in the 1970s. Its second owners bought it in 1975 and retained it for 25 years. It was then used by the government for its artists-in-residence program. When that ceased in 2015, the house fell into disrepair until it was restored by Eugene Howard's InPlace organisation as a sanctuary for filmmakers, writers and artists.

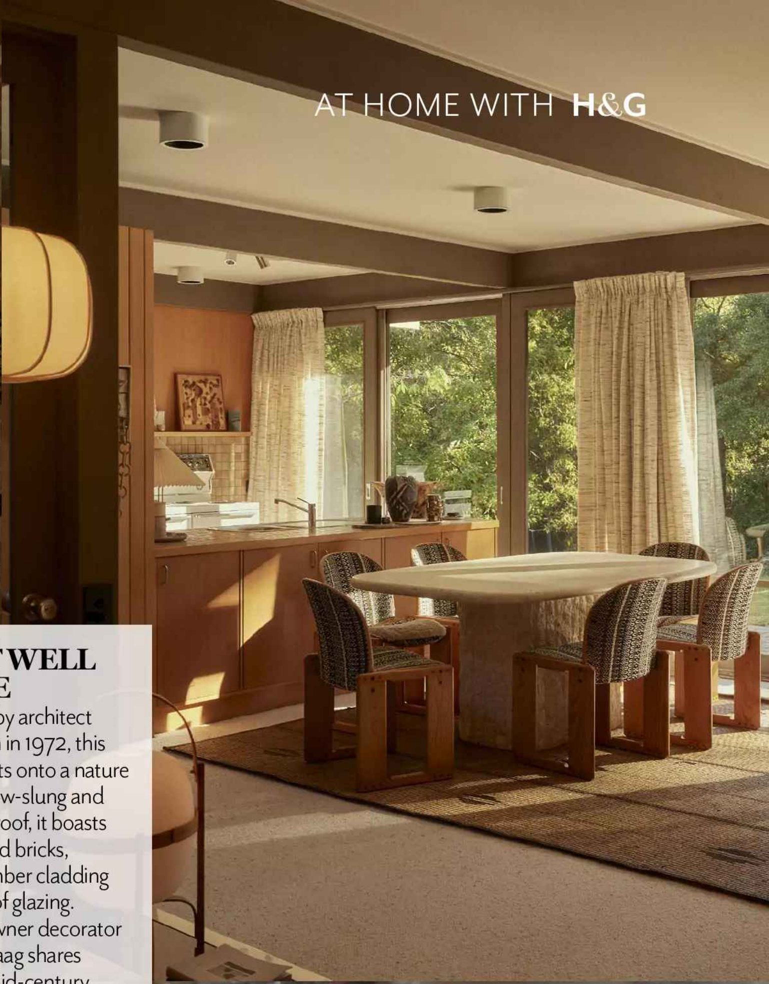


**RIVER BEND HOUSE DINING** Timber ceiling and walls create an all-embracing feeling in the dining area, while bringing the bush vista indoors. 'Sequence' dining table and 'Broad' pendant light, Coco Flip. Dining chairs, Thonet. Artwork (right) by Queenie McKenzie. Vase by Yoko Ozawa.



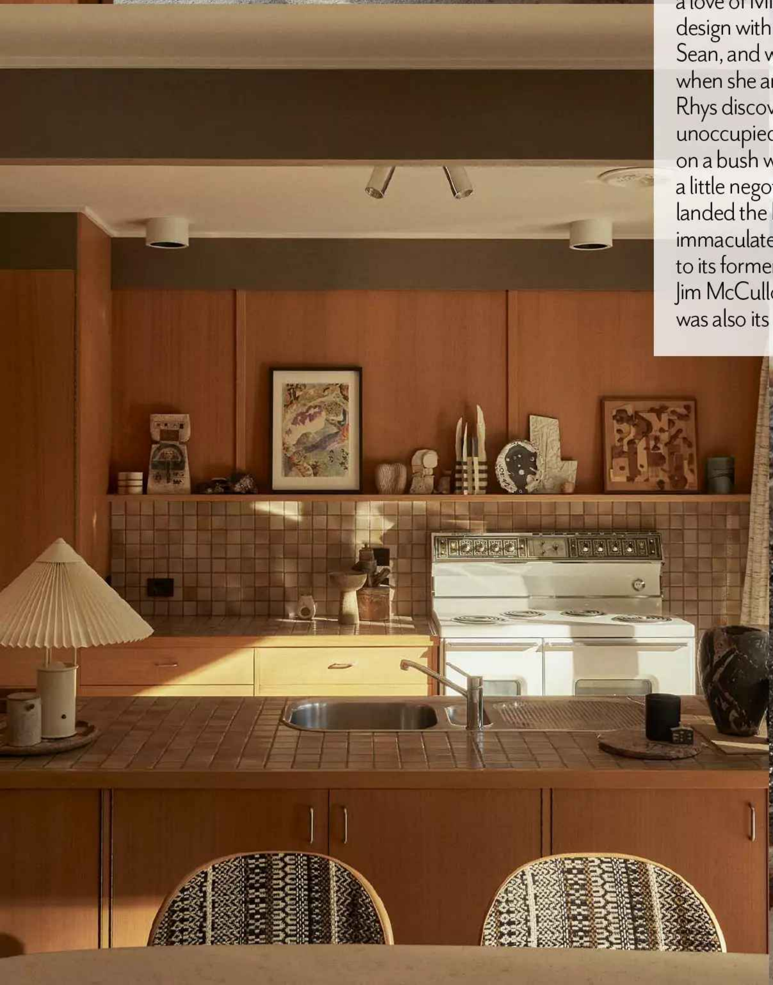
**LIGHT WELL HOUSE LIVING** The Arflex 'Marenco' sofa and vintage lamp, by François Chatain, are true to the home's origins. Vintage artwork. **OPPOSITE** *Top left* In the study, vintage furniture, including a desk from eModerno. Tapestry, Fundamente. **DINING** *Top right* Vintage travertine dining table. 'Dialogo' chairs by Tobia Scarpa. *Bottom right* A Cy Twombly book. **KITCHEN** *Bottom left* Artworks by Gregory Hodge (left) and Tristan Marsh.

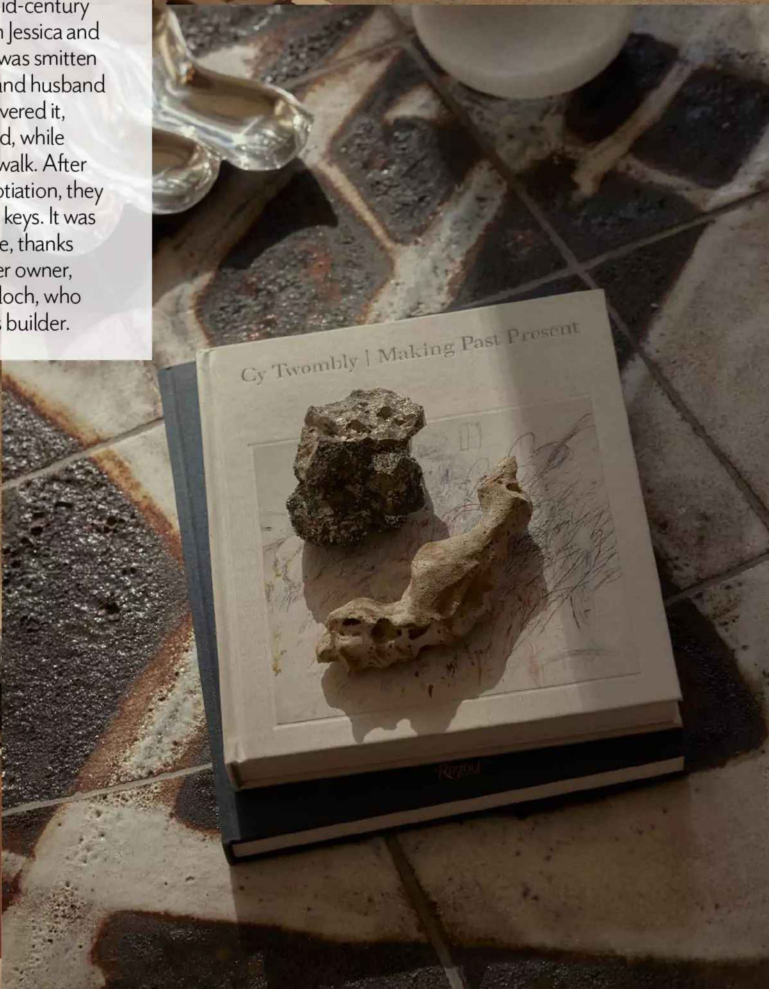
> "This was all about keeping things natural, with mudbricks, terracotta bricks and timber." JESSICA LILLICO

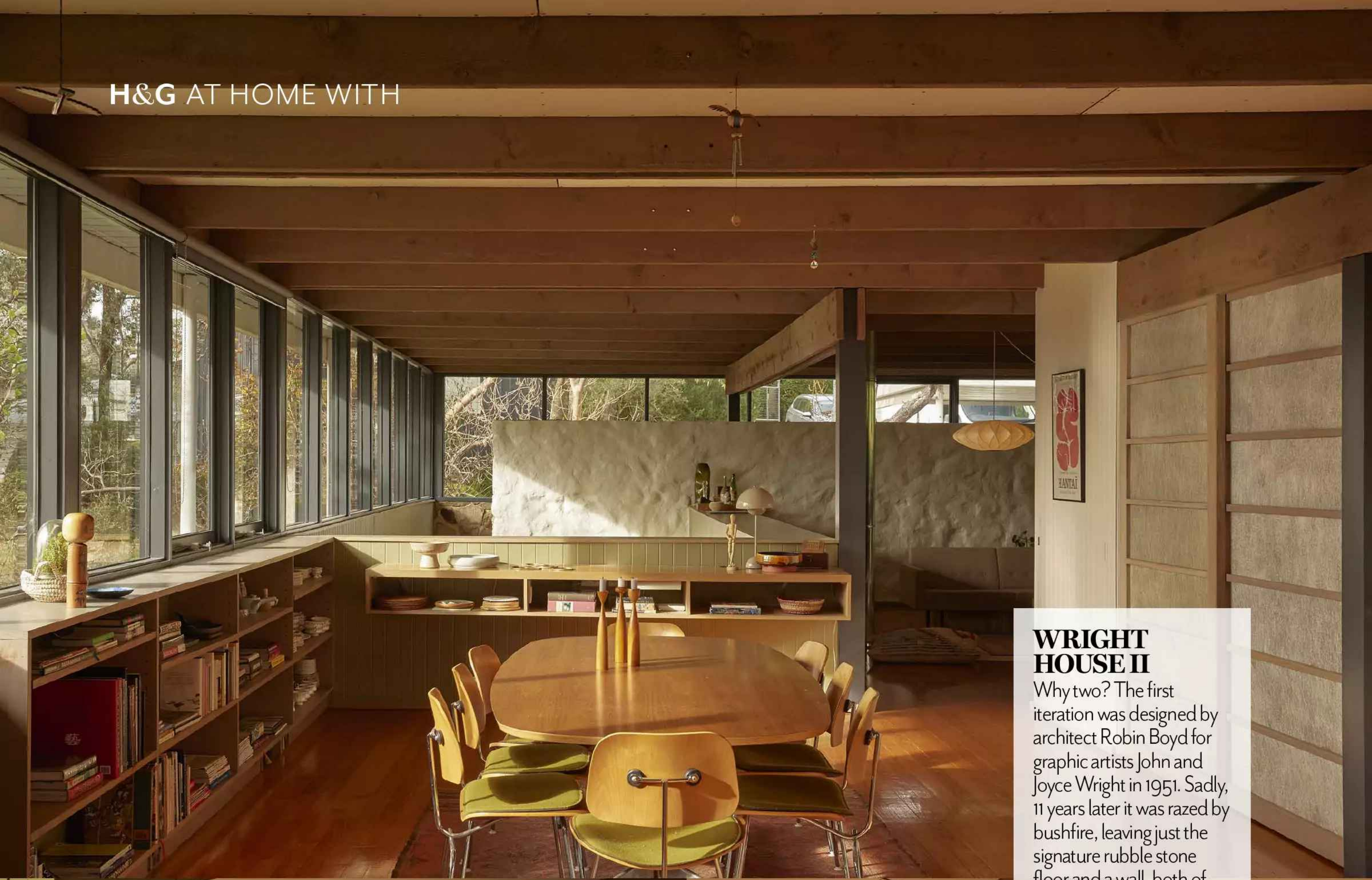


## LIGHT WELL HOUSE

Designed by architect Ian J. Smith in 1972, this home fronts onto a nature reserve. Low-slung and with a flat roof, it boasts sandy-hued bricks, internal timber cladding and walls of glazing. Current owner decorator Simone Haag shares a love of Mid-century design with Jessica and Sean, and was smitten when she and husband Rhys discovered it, unoccupied, while on a bush walk. After a little negotiation, they landed the keys. It was immaculate, thanks to its former owner, Jim McCulloch, who was also its builder.

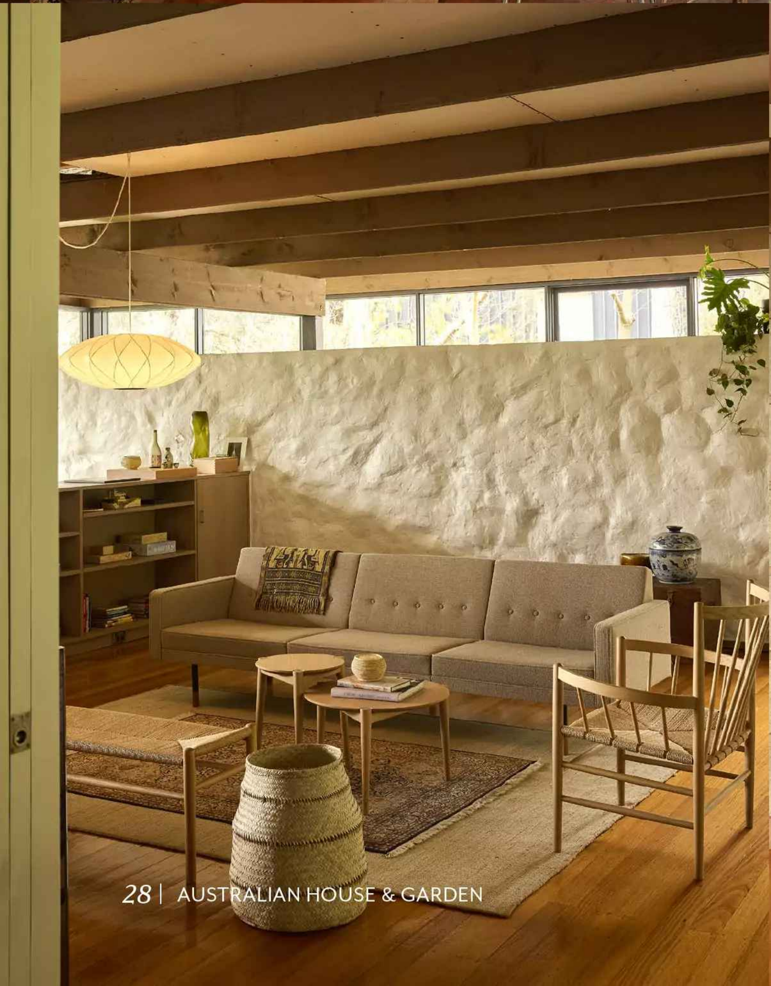


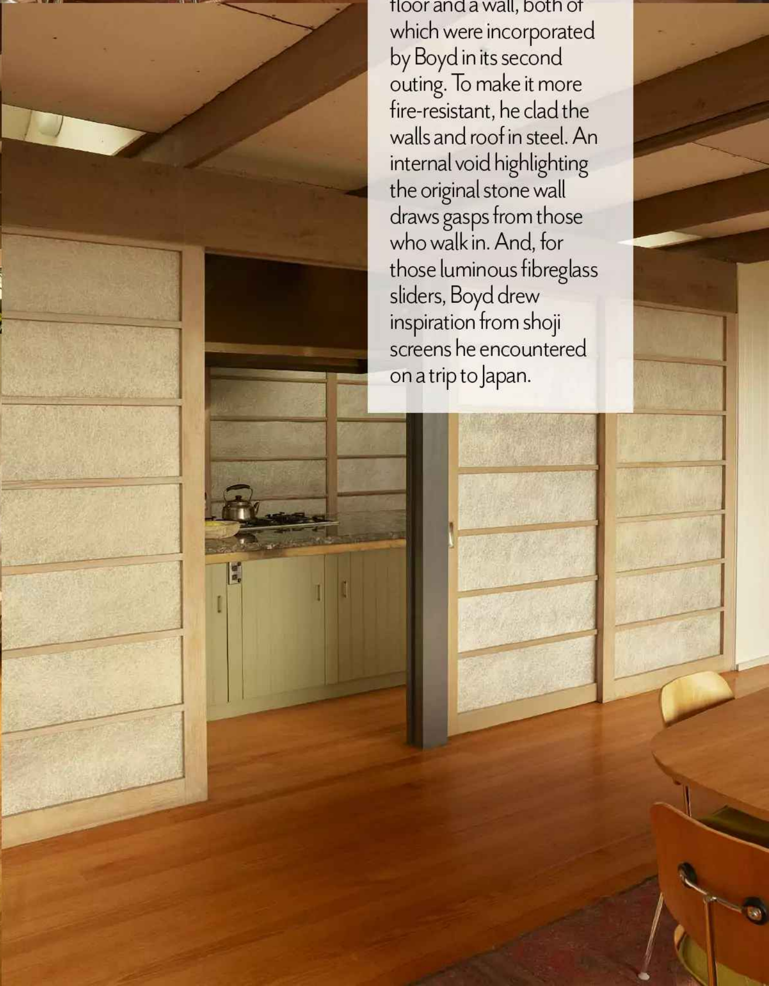


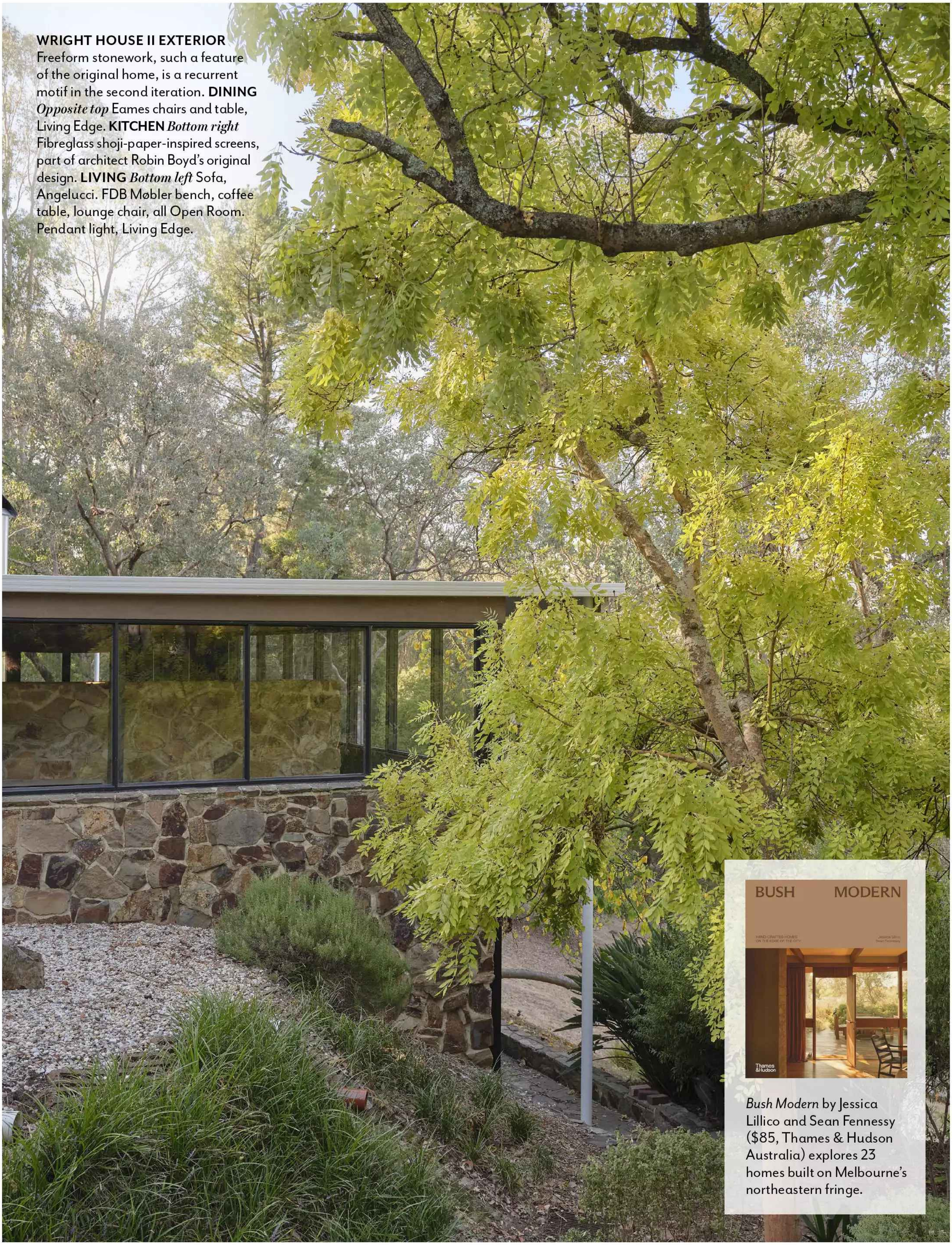


### WRIGHT HOUSE II

Why two? The first iteration was designed by architect Robin Boyd for graphic artists John and Joyce Wright in 1951. Sadly, 11 years later it was razed by bushfire, leaving just the signature rubble stone floor and a wall, both of which were incorporated by Boyd in its second outing. To make it more fire-resistant, he clad the walls and roof in steel. An internal void highlighting the original stone wall draws gasps from those who walk in. And, for those luminous fibreglass sliders, Boyd drew inspiration from shoji screens he encountered on a trip to Japan.







**WRIGHT HOUSE II EXTERIOR** Freeform stonework, such a feature of the original home, is a recurrent motif in the second iteration. **DINING** *Opposite top* Eames chairs and table, Living Edge. **KITCHEN** *Bottom right* Fibreglass shoji-paper-inspired screens, part of architect Robin Boyd's original design. **LIVING** *Bottom left* Sofa, Angelucci. FDB Møbler bench, coffee table, lounge chair, all Open Room. Pendant light, Living Edge.

BUSH
MODERN
HAND-CRAFTED HOMES ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY
Jessica Lillico
Sean Fennessy
Thames & Hudson

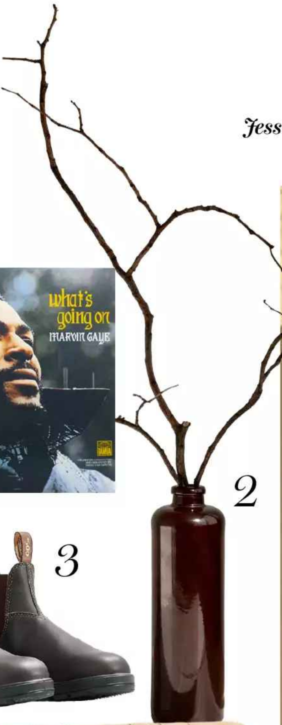
*Bush Modern* by Jessica Lillico and Sean Fennessy ($85, Thames & Hudson Australia) explores 23 homes built on Melbourne's northeastern fringe.

# LIFE & STYLE

*Jessica and Sean share a selection of their greatest influences.*

1

what's going on
MARVIN GAYE



2

3

5

“IT’S HARD TO GO PAST BROWN AT THE MOMENT.” *Sean*

4

6

DESCRIBE THE FAMILY HOME YOU GREW UP IN **Jessica:** A cosy, no-frills farm house. Occasionally, I’d awake to a find a baby calf in front of the fire, born during a cold winter’s night. **Sean:** My dad was a builder and he added to our home over the years. It became quite a sprawling place, which was great for teenagers.

YOUR DESIGN HEROES? **Jessica:** I admire UK designer Faye Toogood (4) for her sculptural approach. **Sean:** US sculptor JB Blunk (6) for combining his artistic practice and everyday life so seamlessly.

FAVOURITE DECORATING COLOUR OR COLOUR COMBO? **Jessica:** Earthy tones, with a splash of primary colour. **Sean:** It’s hard to go past brown on brown at the moment!

I LOVE A VASEFUL OF... **Jessica:** Foraged branches (2).

BIGGEST SPLURGE FOR YOUR HOME? **Jessica:** Our Zoe Grey painting, an abstracted landscape featuring the wild coastline of far north-western Tasmania, near where I grew up.

BEST DECORATING FIND EVER? **Jessica:** The crude, hand-made timber farm bench we found at a market in Tasmania. **Sean:** A pair of paintings by Ita Tipungwuti, bought in the Tiwi Islands.

YOUR FAVOURITE WARDROBE ITEM? **Jessica:** We are both Blundstones (3) tragics. They take us from the local café to the bush trails surrounding Warrandyte.

YOUR LAST OVERSEAS HOLIDAY? **Jessica:** Penang, Malaysia. We love the capital Georgetown for its blend of cultures, decorative shophouses and incredible food.

BUCKET-LIST HOLIDAY DESTINATION? **Jessica:** A lap of Portugal and Spain, taking a detour into Morocco (5). **Sean:** A family trip to South Korea.

MOST MEMORABLE RESTAURANT MEAL? **Jessica:** Grilled fish on the beach at San Fruttuoso, a tiny cove in Northern Italy, which can only be reached by boat or hiking. **Sean:** Second that!

FAVOURITE FAMILY DISH **Jessica:** Sean has been making ‘Marry Me Chicken’ lately, to great acclaim. **Sean:** Gnocchi with sage butter.

MAIN INSTAGRAM INSPIRATION? **Jessica:** I like keeping up with what the local galleries are showing, such as Melbourne galleries Nicholas Thompson Gallery and Daine Singer. **Sean:** The World Of Interiors for timeless, unexpected homes.

ITEM OF MUSIC ON REPEAT PLAY? **Jessica:** *What’s Going On* by Marvin Gaye (1), on vinyl. **Sean:** US country-folk artist John Prine.

DREAM CAR **Sean:** A beaten-up Land Rover Defender with a converted electric motor.

NEXT BIG PURCHASE FOR YOUR HOME **Jessica:** I’d like a little, round plunge pool in the garden. **H&G**

Portrait photography by Sean Fennessy. Photograph of Morocco (5) Getty Images.

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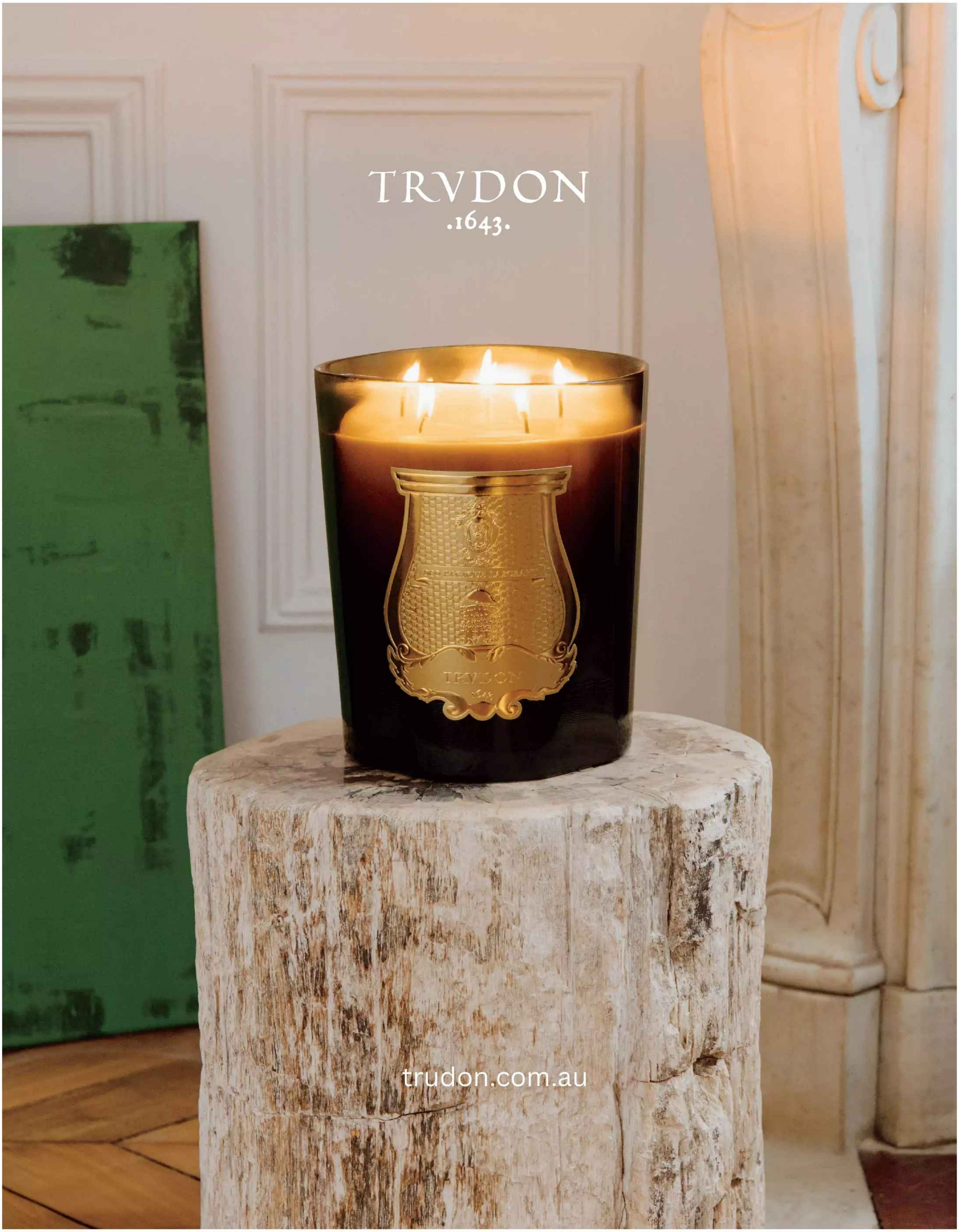
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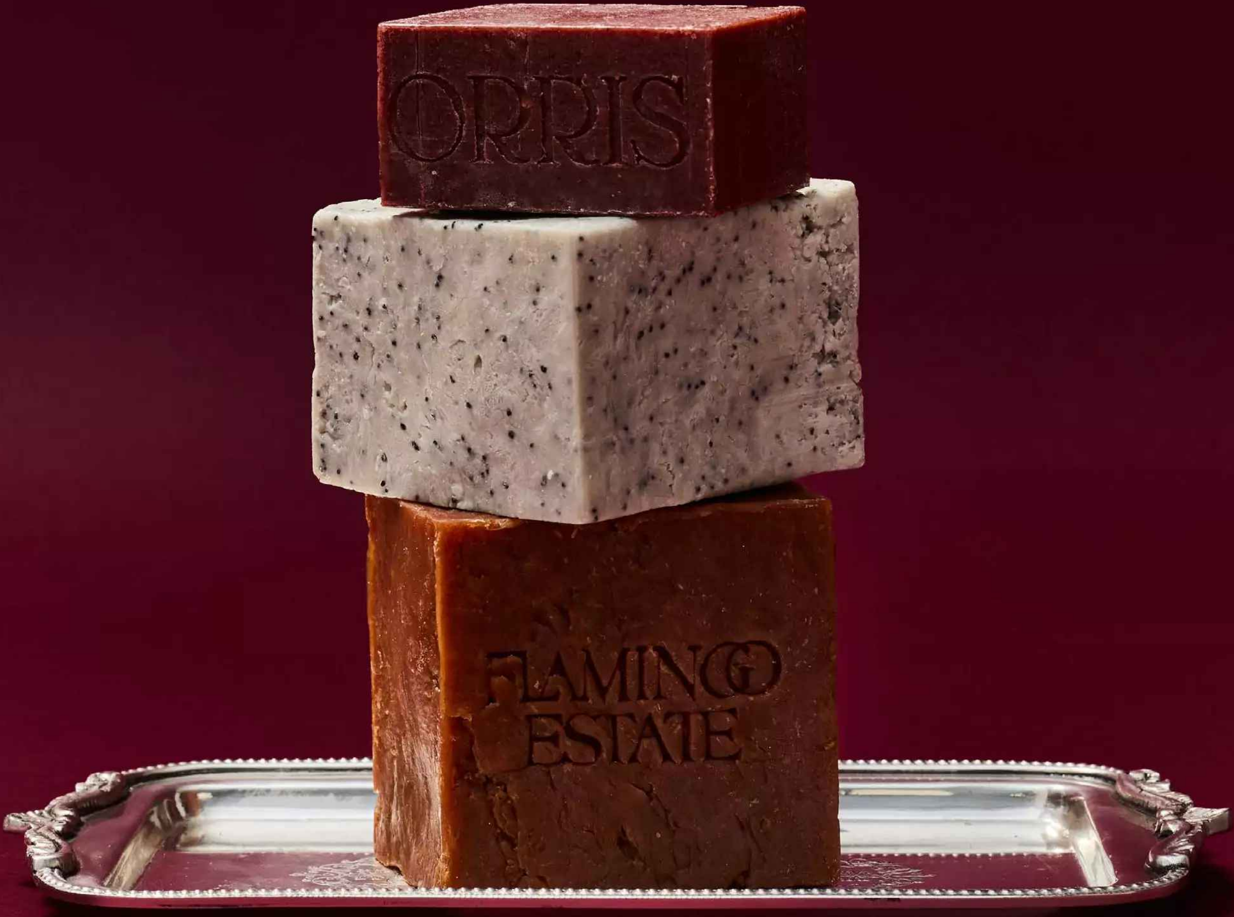
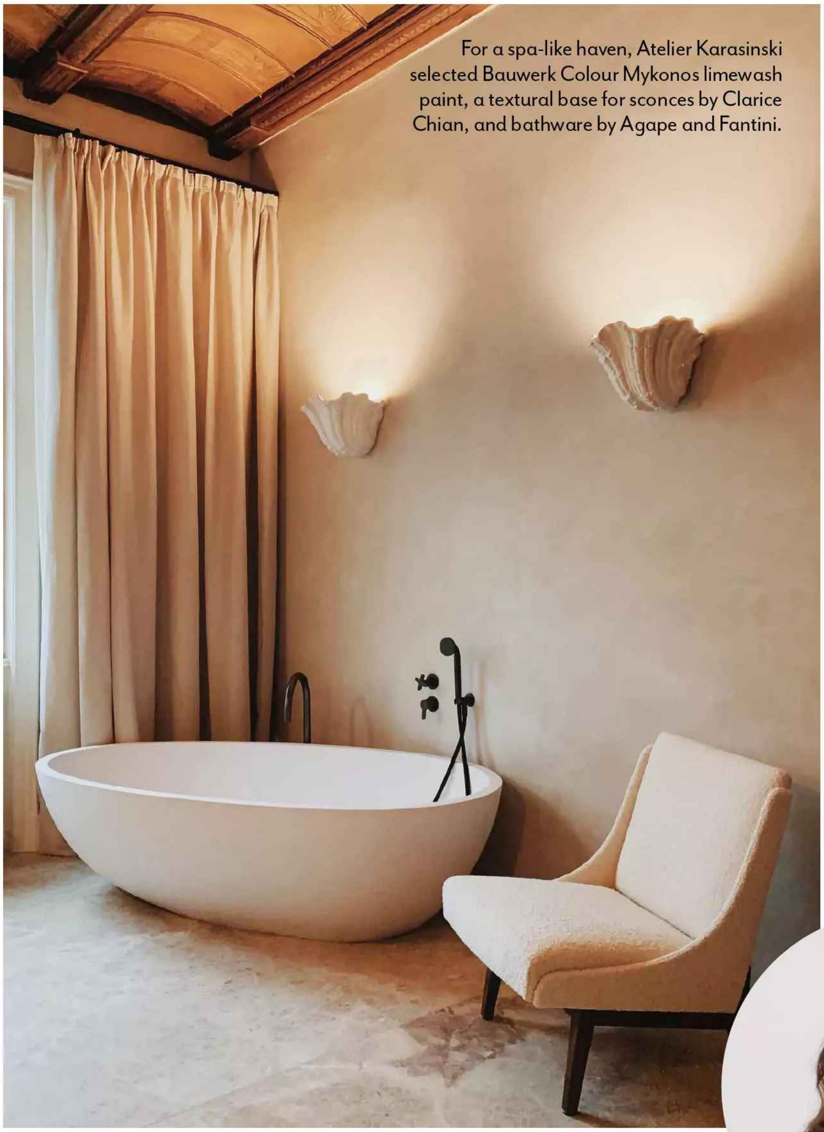
# Decorating & design

EMBRACE SELF-CARE, SMART IDEAS AND VIVACIOUS VESSELS



*From top* Orris 'La Déesse' **artisanal soap**, $35, Oliver Thom. Flamingo Estate 'Exfoliating Peppermint' **soap brick** (340g), $76, and 'Roma Heirloom Tomato'**soap brick** (170g), $72, both Mecca. 'Chatsworth' beaded silver **trinket dish**, $69.95, French Knot.

Styling by Sophie Wilson. Photograph by Lauren Trompp. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman. Stylist's assistant, Nonci Nyoni.



For a spa-like haven, Atelier Karasinski selected Bauwerk Colour Mykonos limewash paint, a textural base for sconces by Clarice Chian, and bathware by Agape and Fantini.

Portrait photograph by Alana Landsberry. Photograph courtesy of Bauwerk Colour.

# Stylescape

### WITH SOPHIE WILSON

This month, *H&G*'s stylist delivers her recommendations to create nurturing moments around the home, with self-care the focus. Warm berry, paprika and olive tones inspire the summery palette.

## BRIGHT EYES

Hit pause and refresh with Augustinus Bader The **Eye Patches**, $38/pair, Mecca.

## THAT'S A WRAP

The pure linen, unisex design of the 'Jacquard' **robe** in Musk makes it a luxe everyday staple; $239.95, In The Sac.

## RADIANT REMEDY

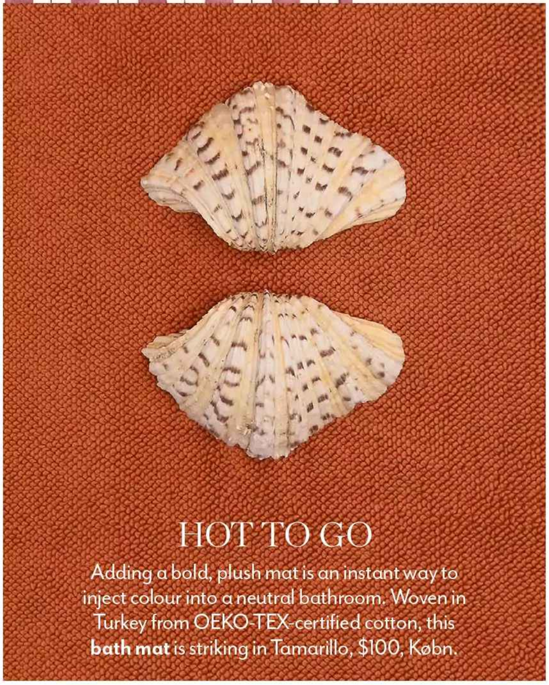
Ethical brand Herbar is rooted in Traditional Chinese medicine and produces health-focused skincare infused with natural ingredients such as hemp, rosehip and reishi. With a vessel as beautiful as the skincare is rejuvenating, the **Face Oil** would be an eye-catching addition to your vanity bench; $145/50ml, Mecca.

## LUXURY LATHER

With sweet notes of neroli, orange blossom, saffron, clove, lemon and lilac, the Saint-Raphaël **shampoo** will add a heavenly fragrance to bathtime rituals; $69/480ml, Saardé.

## CLEAN SWEEP

Creating a relaxing daily ritual can help you reset. The **Gua Sha** ($55, Par Olive), is designed to reduce puffiness and promote circulation. Massage gently over a clean face and neck in upwards sweeping motions.



## HOT TO GO

Adding a bold, plush mat is an instant way to inject colour into a neutral bathroom. Woven in Turkey from OEKO-TEX-certified cotton, this **bath mat** is striking in Tamarillo, $100, Købn.

## TOP FIVE *cosmetic clutches*

1

2

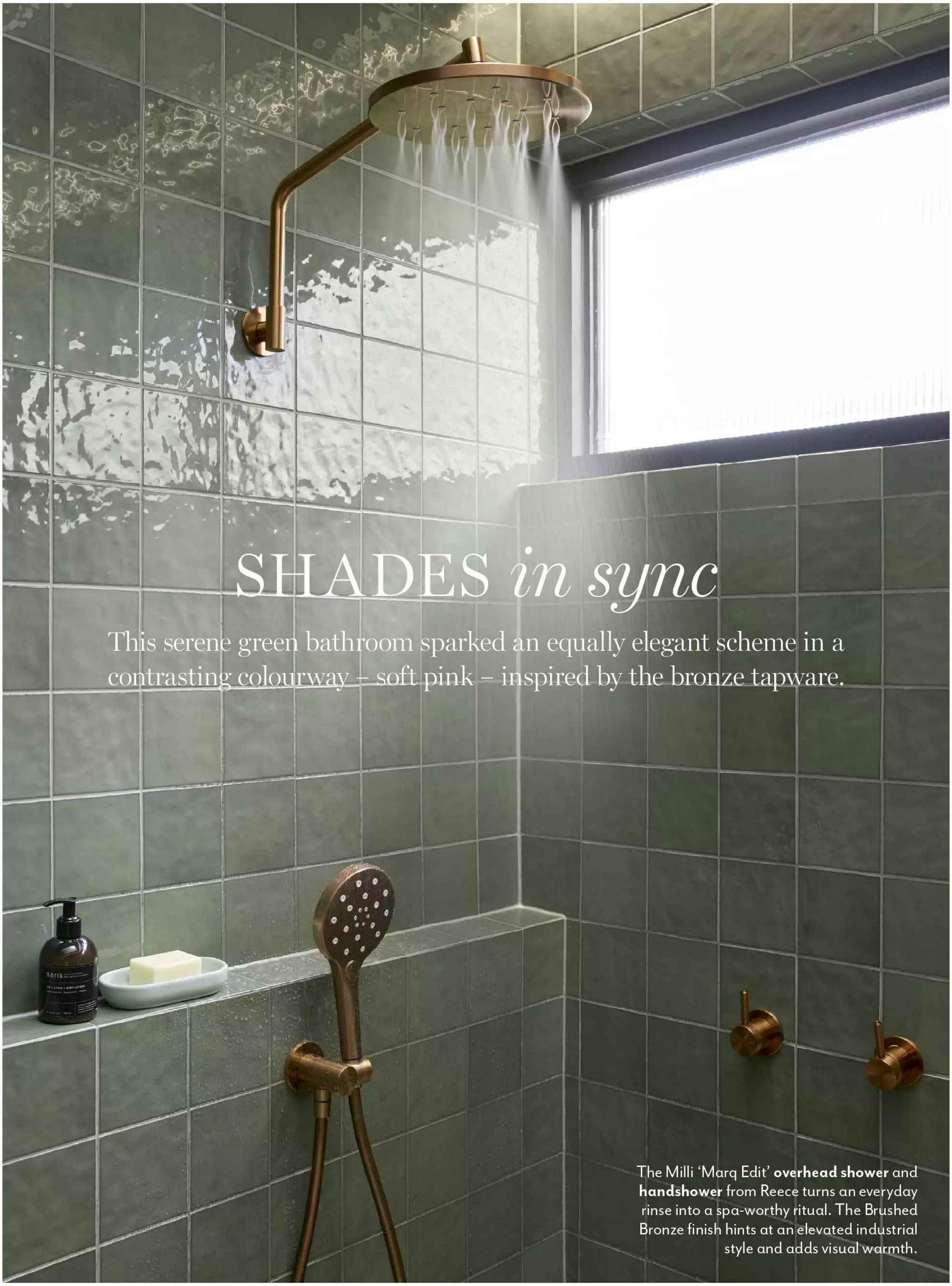
3

4

5

**1** 'Fife' **beauty case**, $129, Oroton. **2** Dries Van Noten two-toned **leather pouch**, $565, Mecca. **3** Hanging **toiletry bag** in Berry, $130, July. **4** 'The Medium Flaire' **pouch** in Manhattan Sandstone, $229, Maison de Sabré. **5** Velvet **toiletry bag**, $55, Kip&Co. ▶

Coordonné 'Colonial' **wallpaper** in Cereza, $220/10m, Wallpaperdirect.

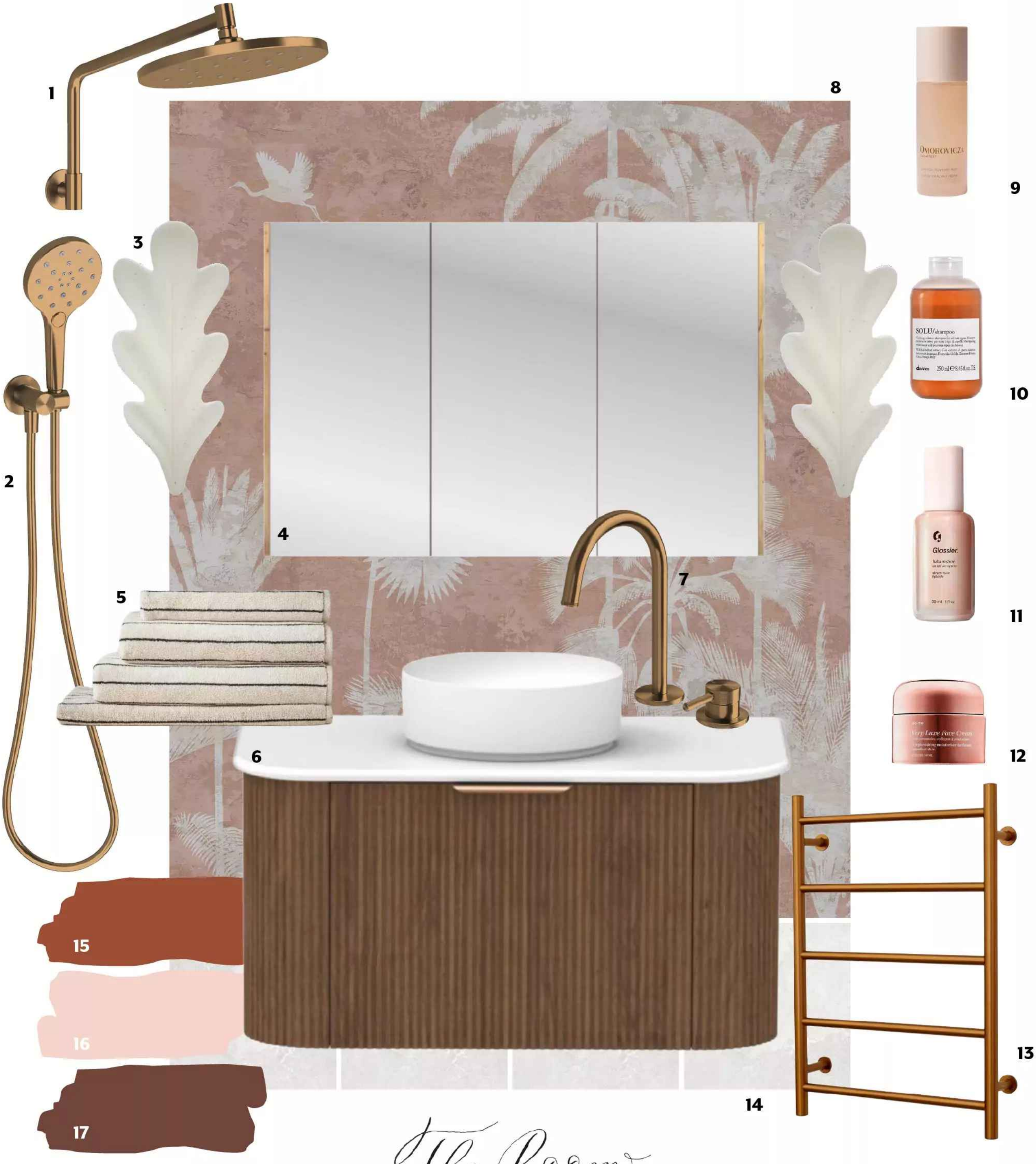


# SHADES *in sync*

This serene green bathroom sparked an equally elegant scheme in a contrasting colourway – soft pink – inspired by the bronze tapware.

The Milli 'Marq Edit' **overhead shower** and **handshower** from Reece turns an everyday rinse into a spa-worthy ritual. The Brushed Bronze finish hints at an elevated industrial style and adds visual warmth.

Photography courtesy of Reece.



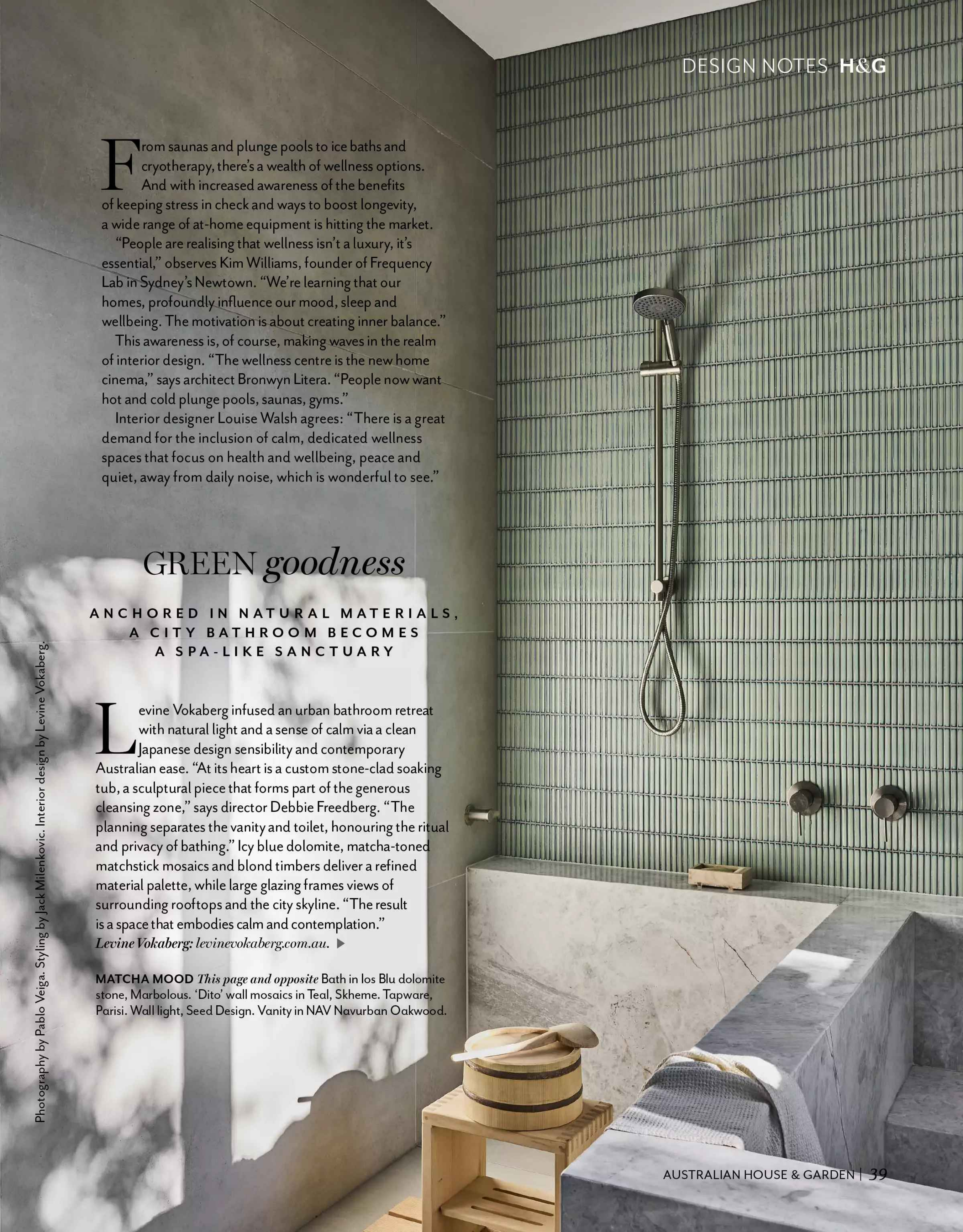
# *The Room*

1 Milli 'Marq Edit' **overhead shower** with arm in Brushed Bronze, POA, Reece. 2 Milli 'Marq Edit' **handshower** in Brushed Bronze, POA, Reece. 3 French plaster **sconces**, $1450 each, Cleo Collects. 4 Kado 'Arc' **shaving cabinet** in Red Tulip, POA, Reece. 5 Sheridan 'Aven' **bath sheet**, $99, Domayne. 6 Kado 'Neue' fluted curve **vanity**, POA, Reece. 7 Milli 'Etch' **basin mixer tap set** in Brushed Bronze, POA, Reece. 8 'Shadow Palms' **mural** in Pink, $280/ 3x1.8m, Milton & King. 9 Omorovicza Queen of Hungary **Mist**, $149, Mecca. 10 Essential Haircare Solu **Shampoo**, $51.95, Adore Beauty. 11 Glossier Futuredew Facial **Oil-Serum** Hybrid, $52, Mecca. 12 Very Luxe **Face Cream**, $79, Go-To. 13 Mizu 'Drift MK2' **heated towel rail** in Brushed Bronze, POA, Reece. 14 'Maximo' **tiles** in White (45x45cm), $45.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles. 15 Bauwerk Colour Paprika. 16 Bauwerk Colour Rosehip. 17 Bauwerk Colour Pheasant. **H&G**

# Well at home

Take notes from the leading creatives who are weaving wellness into everyday life.

STORY *Bethan Lacoba*



From saunas and plunge pools to ice baths and cryotherapy, there's a wealth of wellness options. And with increased awareness of the benefits of keeping stress in check and ways to boost longevity, a wide range of at-home equipment is hitting the market.

"People are realising that wellness isn't a luxury, it's essential," observes Kim Williams, founder of Frequency Lab in Sydney's Newtown. "We're learning that our homes, profoundly influence our mood, sleep and wellbeing. The motivation is about creating inner balance."

This awareness is, of course, making waves in the realm of interior design. "The wellness centre is the new home cinema," says architect Bronwyn Litera. "People now want hot and cold plunge pools, saunas, gyms."

Interior designer Louise Walsh agrees: "There is a great demand for the inclusion of calm, dedicated wellness spaces that focus on health and wellbeing, peace and quiet, away from daily noise, which is wonderful to see."

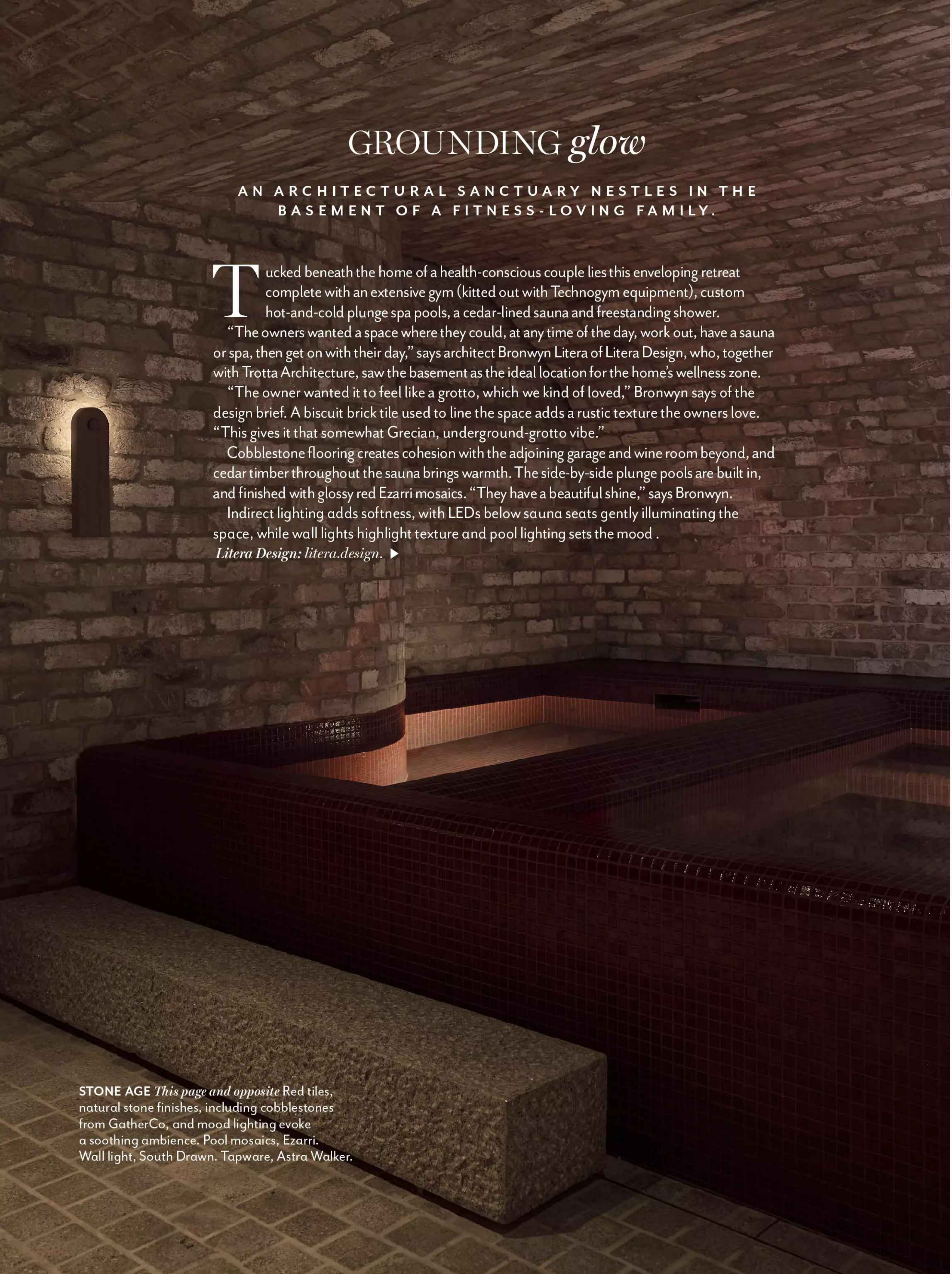
## GREEN *goodness*

### ANCHORED IN NATURAL MATERIALS, A CITY BATHROOM BECOMES A SPA-LIKE SANCTUARY

Levine Vokaberg infused an urban bathroom retreat with natural light and a sense of calm via a clean Japanese design sensibility and contemporary Australian ease. "At its heart is a custom stone-clad soaking tub, a sculptural piece that forms part of the generous cleansing zone," says director Debbie Freedberg. "The planning separates the vanity and toilet, honouring the ritual and privacy of bathing." Icy blue dolomite, matcha-toned matchstick mosaics and blond timbers deliver a refined material palette, while large glazing frames views of surrounding rooftops and the city skyline. "The result is a space that embodies calm and contemplation." *Levine Vokaberg: levinevokaberg.com.au.* ▸

**MATCHA MOOD** *This page and opposite* Bath in los Blu dolomite stone, Marbolous. 'Dito' wall mosaics in Teal, Skheme. Tapware, Parisi. Wall light, Seed Design. Vanity in NAV Navurban Oakwood.

Photography by Pablo Veiga. Styling by Jack Milenkovic. Interior design by Levine Vokaberg.



# GROUNDING *glow*

**AN ARCHITECTURAL SANCTUARY NESTLES IN THE BASEMENT OF A FITNESS-LOVING FAMILY.**

Tucked beneath the home of a health-conscious couple lies this enveloping retreat complete with an extensive gym (kitted out with Technogym equipment), custom hot-and-cold plunge spa pools, a cedar-lined sauna and freestanding shower.

"The owners wanted a space where they could, at any time of the day, work out, have a sauna or spa, then get on with their day," says architect Bronwyn Litera of Litera Design, who, together with Trotta Architecture, saw the basement as the ideal location for the home's wellness zone.

"The owner wanted it to feel like a grotto, which we kind of loved," Bronwyn says of the design brief. A biscuit brick tile used to line the space adds a rustic texture the owners love. "This gives it that somewhat Grecian, underground-grotto vibe."

Cobblestone flooring creates cohesion with the adjoining garage and wine room beyond, and cedar timber throughout the sauna brings warmth. The side-by-side plunge pools are built in, and finished with glossy red Ezarri mosaics. "They have a beautiful shine," says Bronwyn.

Indirect lighting adds softness, with LEDs below sauna seats gently illuminating the space, while wall lights highlight texture and pool lighting sets the mood .

*Litera Design: litera.design.* ▶

**STONE AGE** *This page and opposite* Red tiles, natural stone finishes, including cobblestones from GatherCo, and mood lighting evoke a soothing ambience. Pool mosaics, Ezarri. Wall light, South Drawn. Tapware, Astra Walker.

Photography by Pablo Veiga. Styling by Room on Fire.

## TIPS FOR A HOME SPA

**ADD A STEAM SHOWER**
"I'd put one in my house in a heartbeat. It doesn't take up any extra space and there's not a huge cost involved. It can be installed in your regular shower," says architect Bronwyn Litera of Litera Design.

**PLAN THE LIGHTING**
"It's paramount in these spaces, particularly because they often won't have windows." Use warm LEDs in ceilings, under sauna seats and in wall lights. In gym spaces, add brighter lighting for safety.

**FINESSE FINISHES**
"Texture and colour will help it feel more cosy and comfortable."

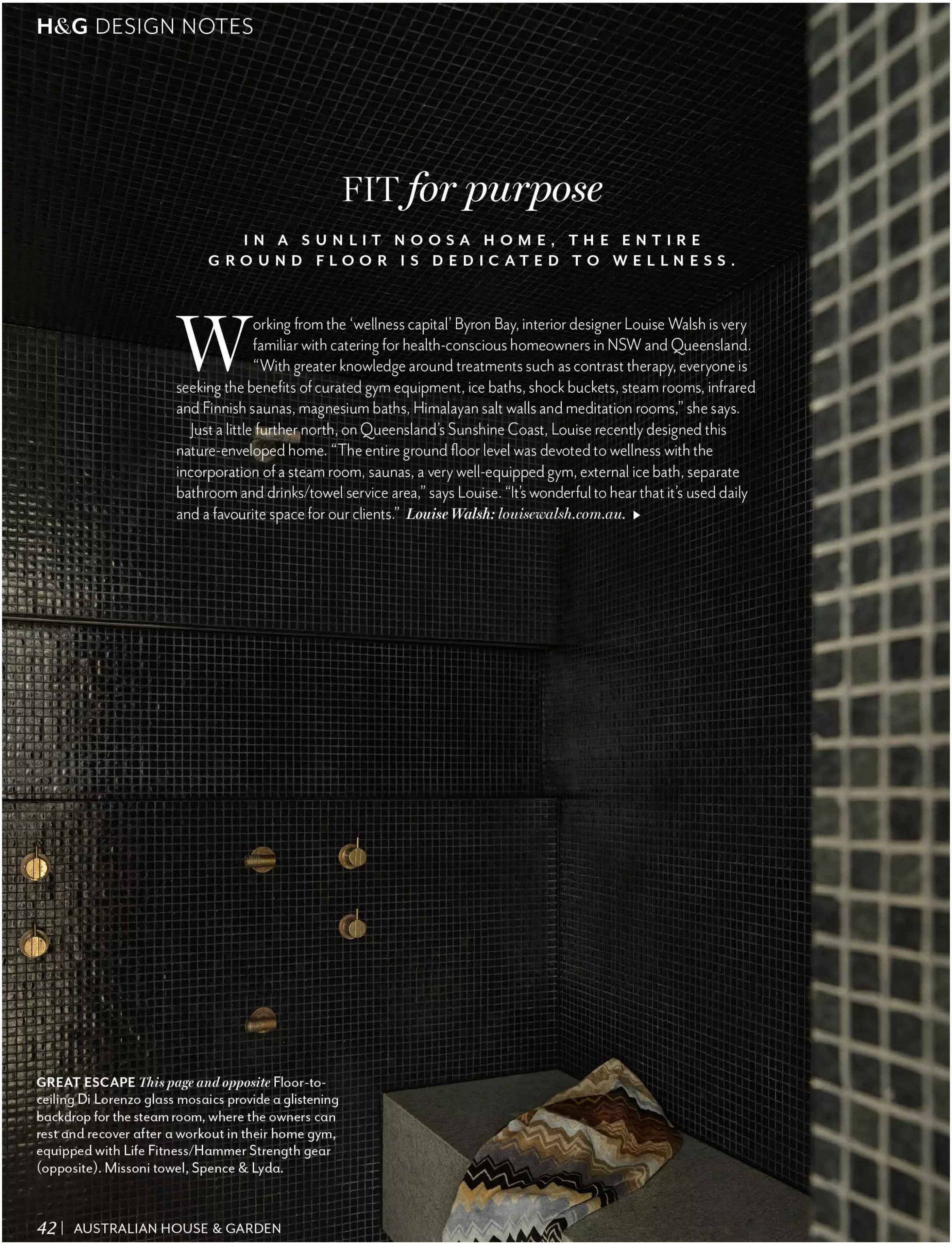
**WORK WITH PROS**
Experts will ensure that any equipment is under warranty and will operate correctly and safely.

**CREATE ILLUSION**
"Adding lots of mirrors is a good way to make spa and gym spaces feel bigger."

> "People associate spas and water with blue. Bringing in the red tone makes it moody."
>
> BRONWYN LITERA, ARCHITECT

# FIT *for purpose*

## IN A SUNLIT NOOSA HOME, THE ENTIRE GROUND FLOOR IS DEDICATED TO WELLNESS.



Working from the 'wellness capital' Byron Bay, interior designer Louise Walsh is very familiar with catering for health-conscious homeowners in NSW and Queensland. "With greater knowledge around treatments such as contrast therapy, everyone is seeking the benefits of curated gym equipment, ice baths, shock buckets, steam rooms, infrared and Finnish saunas, magnesium baths, Himalayan salt walls and meditation rooms," she says.

Just a little further north, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Louise recently designed this nature-enveloped home. "The entire ground floor level was devoted to wellness with the incorporation of a steam room, saunas, a very well-equipped gym, external ice bath, separate bathroom and drinks/towel service area," says Louise. "It's wonderful to hear that it's used daily and a favourite space for our clients." ***Louise Walsh:*** *louisewalsh.com.au.* ▶

**GREAT ESCAPE** ***This page and opposite*** Floor-to-ceiling Di Lorenzo glass mosaics provide a glistening backdrop for the steam room, where the owners can rest and recover after a workout in their home gym, equipped with Life Fitness/Hammer Strength gear (opposite). Missoni towel, Spence & Lyda.

Photography by Anson Smart. Styling by Louise Walsh Interior Design.

## TIPS FOR A HOME GYM

**DESIGN FOR THE SENSES**
"Carefully consider lighting placement, fixture selection and speaker locations. These layers enhance the sensory and visual experience," says interior designer Louise Walsh.

**ADD STYLISH JOINERY**
"We like to incorporate finely detailed joinery that houses water stations, fridges, towel storage and display zones for yoga mats, weights and balls – ensuring spaces are functional and refined."

**FACTOR IN FLOORING**
"There are now several beautiful flooring options – from cork tiles to sisal-textured rubbers – that can be used in home gyms depending on equipment weight, selection and intended use."

**SHOP SLEEK**
"There's a growing range of elegant gym equipment for anyone who wishes to integrate design-led pieces, such as those from nohrd.com/au."

**WORK AND PLAY** *This page and opposite* A medley of timber, marble and curved concrete sets a calm tone. Artwork, Montmartre Concept Store. Tapware, Brodware. Basin, Concrete Bespoke. Floor tiles, Bisanna Tiles.

## TIPS FOR A HOME SAUNA

### KNOW YOUR TYPE

The style of sauna you install will come down to personal preference. A traditional Scandinavian sauna can either be a classic, typically 75–90°C with humidity of 5–15%, or dry, at a very high 95–110°C. An infrared room sits at around 40°C. There's also the option to install infrared panels and a sauna heater in one custom sauna room to do it all.

### MAKE IT SOCIAL

Consider how your sauna will be used, then select the right size to accommodate. "We're seeing set-ups for families or friends to use together," says Louise Walsh. "These spaces provide the opportunity for quiet but also connection. A return to the Roman bathhouse era, but within your own home!"

### SET A CALM TONE

Decorate the zone leading into a sauna with nature-based materials. Plants, timber and natural stone help restore balance.

# MEET & *retreat*

A WELLNESS WORKSPACE WITH A NORDIC SAUNA, OUTDOOR ICE BATH AND MORE.

The Workshop by architecture and interior design studio Alexander &CO is located next door to their headquarters, Alexander House, in Sydney's Bondi. While it showcases the work of local artisans and provides a rejuvenating space for staff to gather or rest, it also poses as a real-life portfolio for clients to experience.

"The historical restored fireplaces and intricate plastered cornices are impressive, but it's the wellness space that seems to break from tradition as an innovative workplace addition," says PR and marketing director Tess Glasson.

Beyond an olive-green panelled wall lies a traditional Nordic hot-stone sauna. Adjoining this space, a garden offers a connection to nature to further inspire staff creativity and wellbeing, with chickens, a beehive and vegetable patch creating an urban farm. "Within the urbanscape, this little sanctuary garden offers a moment of still quietude." *Alexander &CO: alexanderand.co.* **H&G**

Photography by Anson Smart. Styling by Claire Delmar.

In a quiet pocket of paradise in northern NSW, a barrel sauna provides respite. An outdoor shower is incorporated with textured stone plinth and steps adding to the nature-inspired scheme.

## TIPS FOR MIND AND BODY

"Think of your home design as a sensory experience," says sound healer Kim Williams from Frequency Lab. "Colours, sounds, textures and scents communicate with your nervous system, so be intentional to truly create a safe and welcoming space."

**TAKE A BREATH**

"Even the smallest ritual, like a mindful breath before entering your home or lighting a candle to mark the transition from 'doing' to 'being', can create a ripple of calm through the house."

**SLEEP SOUNDLY**

"Keep tech out of the bedroom, introduce soft ambient lighting and use natural fibres to support rest."

**SET THE MOOD**

"Diffused light, calming music and plants enhance air quality and life energy."

**SEEK CALM**

"Turn bathing into ritual. Add essential oils, soft towels and sound or silence to shift the nervous system."

**WORK WONDERS**

"Use grounding elements in your home office – a salt lamp, nature sounds or aromatherapy – to reduce stress and promote focus."

***frequencylab.com.au***

# THE WELL ZONE

## AN ARCHITECT, INTERIOR DESIGNER AND SOUND HEALER OFFER PRACTICAL GUIDANCE ON SETTING UP A DEDICATED RECOVERY SPA RETREAT AT HOME.

STORY *Bethan Lacoba*

At the start of a new year, health and fitness goals come into the spotlight. Could you fit in a gym, spa, sauna, steam shower or all of the above at home? We've asked the experts for tips to help you consider your options, aligned with your personal goals and preferences, to bring daily wellness into reality.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

"Explore what style of wellness treatments you genuinely enjoy," recommends interior designer Louise Walsh. "There's little point following a trend if it isn't something you'll use. The benefit comes from consistency, ideally several times a week, so we encourage our clients to visit spas and discover which rituals resonate with them. It's also important to consider what mood speaks to you – perhaps a light-filled open space or a cocooning darker retreat immersed in nature. The result should be a beautiful experience."

Louise suggests visiting local and global destinations for inspiration, pointing to De Montel in Milan, Italy, and Capella Sydney, as recent spa visits that have inspired her.

### MAKE A PLAN

The size and layout of your home, plus technical considerations such as ventilation, ceiling height and plumbing, can impact choices when evaluating where to fit any sort of spa space, says architect Bronwyn Litera. "Freestanding custom or ready-made saunas and cold plunges can feel at home beside a pool and in the garden," she says. If there is the space, a basement level, leading off a garage or in place of a family rumpus/media room are ideal locations to set up a home gym with a shower and sauna for post-workout recovery.

### PICK A SAUNA

With reported benefits including stress relief, deeper sleep, improved immune function and recovery after exercise, saunas are increasingly popular, according to Viking Sauna & Steam, who import European designs and work with architects such as Bronwyn. "The type of sauna remains a personal preference as does the heat output," adds Louise, citing traditional and infrared options. "We're setting these up for individual use as well as for friends and families to enjoy together, providing opportunities for connection, which I love."

As a starting point, SDS Australia recommends the Harvia 'Onyx' infrared cedar sauna for one to two people, from $9999, or the 'Ignite' thermo barrel sauna, from $11,550, as an outdoor option.

### GET STEAMY

"Steam rooms, or at least steam showers, are almost always incorporated with a sauna option," says Louise. For those without an extensive space or budget, spa-style luxury is achievable in smaller spaces via a steam shower built into a bathroom.

"You can sit there if there's a built-in seat for a period of time, then you can cool off with a cold or regular shower afterwards. It's all contained within that same shower recess," says Bronwyn. "The space needs to be able to cope with the steam. There's a lot of condensation, so there's a fair few considerations around longevity and making sure that the space doesn't get mouldy."

For the best result, it's wise to work with an expert architect or designer from the outset of a renovation, who are connected with experienced, reliable suppliers and tradespeople. See retailers such as Geyser Steam and Viking Sauna & Steam to start your research.

### CHILL OUT

"Ice baths or shock buckets, and/or magnesium baths are another must-have item," says Louise. A cold plunge can feel rejuvenating after intense exercise. The range of freestanding ice baths on offer is testament to this, with ready-made sleek cubes and handsome cedar barrels (look to the Revel 'Arctic' cedar ice bath, $3999, or Helsi Ice Plunge, $12,499). Or there's the option of incorporating a custom design via an architect or designer, to suit your interiors.

"There's a fair bit of mechanical consideration in keeping them cold or keeping them hot, and fitting them out much like you would a swimming pool so that they're waterproof," says Bronwyn. **H&G**

***Litera Design:** litera.design. **Louise Walsh:** louisewalsh.com.au.*

Photography by Andy Macpherson. Interior design by Louise Walsh. Architecture by Marc & Co. Landscaping by Fig Landscapes. Build by Northern Rivers Construction.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

# DESIGN INTERVENTION

**FINDING A HOME ON SYDNEY'S NORTHERN BEACHES, THE NEW KING LIVING OUTPOST IS PART OF A GLOBAL RETAIL PORTFOLIO DEVOTED TO DESIGN AND DESIRE.**

STORY *Gavin Kirk*

The largest King Living store to date has landed in Balgowlah on Sydney's Northern Beaches – about a 40-minute drive from the CBD – with a showroom that's as much a working design studio as it is a stylish stage for shoppers on the hunt for beautifully crafted furniture. Unmissable on Condamine Street, an arterial road that's seemingly become a magnet for all the homewares heavyweights, the two-level showroom invites visitors to do more than just browse for inspiration. Though that's a perfectly fine pastime here, coffee in hand on the Saturday morning design drive.

At the recent opening of the store, founder David King – the actual King of King Living – recounted the early days of the business and making the furniture by hand, alongside his mother, for a stall at Sydney's Paddy's Markets. "She'd be doing the sewing," he reminisced. "I would be doing the selling." Which, on occasion, and if sales were good, meant loading up his Datsun 180B and taking the journey north to deliver pieces to Northern Beaches customers.

All these years later, the brand's glittering arrival in Balgowlah feels like a quiet nod to those early trips – the keen and eager sparks that started the Australian-born success story King Living is today.

Inside the store, the mood is part gallery, part chic workshop. Sunlight pours through a central atrium where a very happy-looking ficus tree softens the concrete and timber finishes. Solar panels across the roof quietly supply most of the building's power, but the real drawcard, for many, is at ground level: full living room settings that invite a little rearranging, playing with scale and testing out comfort.

Everything here is made to order. The customisation part of the service is particularly evident when staff open the swatch drawers – over 200 fabrics and leathers – so you can see material combinations that might work in your home. Just remember: sizes can shift, accessories adapt and nothing is locked in until it feels just right. **H&G**
*King Living: kingliving.com.au.*

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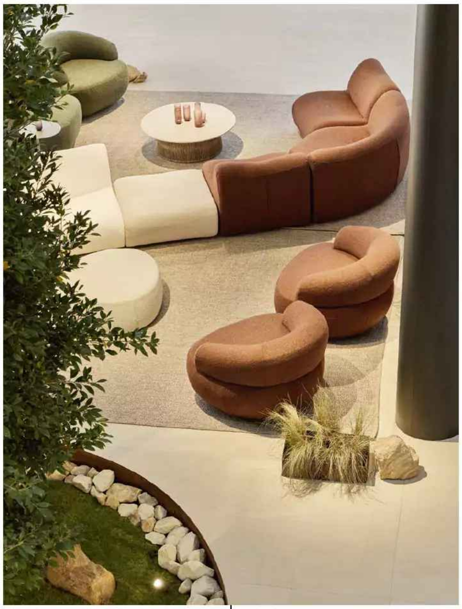
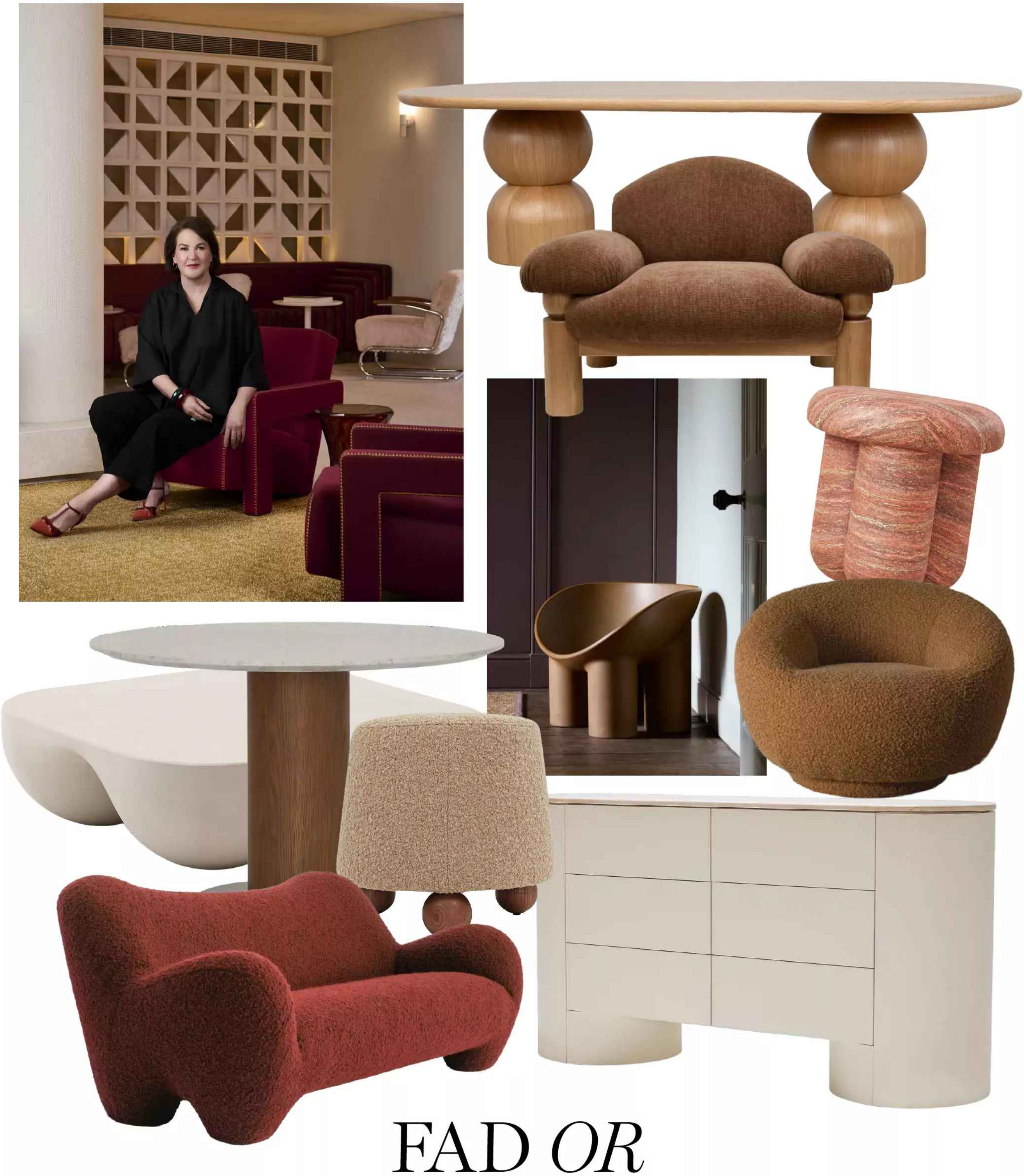
***H&G* LOVES** The chance to play with furniture layouts, fabrics and leathers – a hands-on approach on which David King built his business, and one that makes picking and customising the perfect piece genuinely satisfying. **OPPOSITE** Inside the first Northern Beaches outpost of King Living.



**WHILE YOU'RE IN THE AREA**
*From top* **Seek** inspiration from King Living's Balgowlah store. **Lunch** at Felons Seafood, located on Manly's East Esplanade. **Swim** at nearby Manly Beach. **Add** the 'Myco' marble-top side table from King Living to your wish list.

Photograph of Manly Beach, Getty Images.



# FAD *OR* FOREVER?

**IT'S BEEN CALLED CHUNKY, CHUBBY, EVEN VOLUMINOUS. BUT WHATEVER THE LABEL, FURNITURE WITH PLUMP PROPORTIONS IS ON THE RISE. HERE, KIRSTIE CLEMENTS QUIZZES EXPERTS ON WHETHER THE TREND WILL LAST.**

STORY *Kirstie Clements* | PORTRAIT *Fiona Susanto*

## THE EXPERTS

**JACK MILENKOVIC**
*Creative director, Studio Jack Milenkovic*

**RACHEL DONATH**
*Founder, Rachel Donath, (& Coco Republic collaborator)*

**ALICE McMULLIN**
*Founder, McMullin*

**OPPOSITE** *Clockwise from top* Kirstie Clements at The Eve Hotel in Sydney. 'Elemental' dining table, Interior Secrets. 'Hugo' armchair in Bark, McMullin. 'Roly Poly' chair (inset), Toogood. 'Trio' side table, Casa Blanco. 'Bombo' chair, Rachel Donath. 'Fin' six-drawer dresser, Ellison Studios. 'Gummy' sofa, Toogood. 'Worb' low stool, Freedom. Dining table, Coco Republic. 'Colba' coffee table, Kave Home.

When shopping for a new dining table recently, I found myself musing on the current style trend of chunky, rounded furniture. I love the sculptural, emphatic boldness of it, but in a few years, will I want my tabletop resting on a pair of boulder-size legs, or an occasional chair that looks like a giant roly-poly marshmallow? Will these oversized, curvaceous shapes date fast or are they forever pieces? Our panel of design experts weighs in.

*The chunky furniture trend: love it or loathe it?*

**Jack:** There's something comforting about this new wave of voluminous furniture. It feels playful and protective, with a sense of humour and a big heart. I'm not one for chunky furniture but can surrender to softer curves that contrast against sharper lines.

**Rachel:** It's a bit of fun. I can absolutely appreciate it when done well. Chunky pieces have a way of grounding a space, they're visually comforting, tactile and playful.

**Alice:** Love it, when done with restraint. I think the appeal of sculptural, weighty forms lies in their presence. They can ground a room beautifully, but the key is balance. When everything in a space competes for attention, you lose a sense of calm.

> "If a piece is made well, from natural stone, timber or steel, it will endure."
>
> ALICE McMULLIN

*Is the trend timely or timeless?*

**Jack:** All chunky forms and exaggerated curves can tip into caricature if you're not careful. When the shapes start to feel more comical than sculptural, the magic gets lost. In a context where people want homes to feel comforting, they might opt for timely pieces. This trend taps into a desire for wellness. I find clients are increasingly drawn to furniture that promotes relaxation and escape.

**Rachel:** When the proportions, materials and silhouette are right, these pieces transcend trend. My 'Bombo' chair, for example, oozes visual comfort; its soft form feels enduring.

**Alice:** The exaggerated curves and oversized silhouettes feel very of-the-moment, but their origins are inspired by Mid-century Modernism and the organic shapes of the 1970s. For me, it comes down to materiality. If a piece is made well, from natural stone, timber or steel, it will endure.

*Which designers are making this trend cool?*

**Jack:** Faye Toogood, Gachot Studios, Kelly Wearstler, Haddou/Dufourcq are leading the charge, giving those bulbous forms a kind of high-design credibility. Ellison Studios brings a more relaxed, Australian take – still chunky but refined.

**Rachel:** Ligne Roset have mastered that sculptural softness, creating forms that feel organic yet architectural. My design ethos is to create pieces that are experiential and collectable.

**Alice:** I'm constantly inspired by the work of Faye Toogood and Pierre Yovanovitch. They both bring such warmth to bold form and are creating pieces that feel both sculptural and liveable.

*Can chunky furniture make a small space feel bigger?*

**Jack:** A few large, sculptural pieces can create a sense of visual calm in a compact space – fewer lines, less clutter. But go too far and it's like living in a soft-edged maze. Scale and breathing room are everything.

**Rachel:** When used thoughtfully, oversized forms can simplify the visual field; fewer, larger pieces can feel more spacious than a cluster of smaller items.

**Alice:** A single large, rounded form can make a space feel more intentional than several smaller pieces. The softness of curves also encourages flow. But proportion is key.

*Are you happy to invest in a trend?*

**Jack:** I would be happy to incorporate the right pieces, playing with scale and texture. The extreme proportions may fade but the comfort-first mindset will linger. I have a timeless approach and my purchases are dictated by soft curves, neutral tones and natural materials. A single statement piece can completely shift the energy of a room. And if it's beautifully made, it's never really a waste; you can always recontextualise quality.

**Rachel:** If it brings joy and personality to a space, absolutely. I think of furniture as both functional and emotional. If a piece makes you smile every time you walk past it, it's worth it.

**Alice:** Design is meant to evolve. I think it's perfectly fine to embrace something expressive of the moment, as long as you balance it with classic, pared-back pieces elsewhere. **H&G**

# Steve & Emily Bradley

The duo behind Bankston, makers of architectural hardware, has forged a company with collaboration at its heart.

AS TOLD TO *Gavin Kirk* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Christopher Morrison*

Adelaide-based couple Steve and Emily Bradley share a close rapport with designers, including local outfit Studio Gram, whose Brompton workspace features Bankston hardware such as the aluminium 'Pull 01', an elongated door pull realised in partnership with architecture studio Edition Office. **OPPOSITE** *Top* Pieces created with interior design and architecture studio YSG include the 'Straight Streaker' levers, part of 'The Streaks' range. *Bottom* 'H03' knob in Portoro Gold and Polished Nickel from the 'Hemispheres' range, designed in collaboration with Civilian.

***Emily: I grew up in old houses my parents were renovating in Adelaide.*** We moved a lot. I was born the year my parents started their original hardware design and manufacturing business, so hardware and interiors have always played a big role in my life.

***Steve: I think growing up in the country taught me patience and perspective.*** Things moved at a slower pace and that helped me value consistency and attention to detail over rushing. The relative isolation instilled in me the freedom to give things a go.

***Emily: We started as a family business supplying homes with restoration hardware.*** Bankston was founded in 2018 as a new chapter in that legacy. Each Bankston collection has resulted from a collaboration with leading minds in design to create original expressions of architectural hardware.

***Steve: Bankston emerged as a vehicle to realise our creative vision*** and to contribute positively to the Australian design narrative. Through collaborations and bold but considered product development, we've been able to treat hardware as something that inspires and surprises. Pushing innovation while preserving artisanal skills to pass on to future generations really excites us.

***Emily: Design happens relatively quickly; production takes time.*** Bridging the two is always a challenge. Every new piece begins with a concept, often born from collaborative conversations or a design brief. Our litmus test is simple: does this bring something entirely new to the market? If it doesn't shift the conversation in some way, we go back to the drawing board. Once the idea is strong enough, we move through experimenting with materials to find the right balance of form, feel and durability. By the time a product launches, it's been through countless iterations to make sure it's not only beautiful and functional, but also unique.

***Steve: We collaborate with leading creatives to create collections that redefine hardware*** as integral to the aesthetic and emotional experience of a space. We look for people whose work we admire, who we know will challenge and reshape our perceptions of hardware, and who are simply nice people to work with. We want a lever or pull to be noticed and remembered, so we always have an eye on designers who approach their work with curiosity.

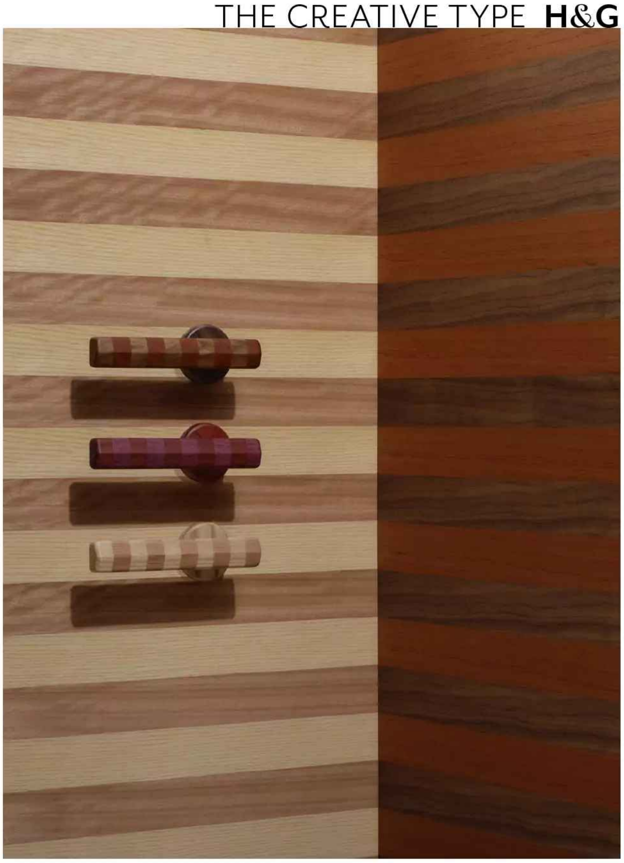
***Emily: It's hard to single out one collection because each has been meaningful in its own way.*** From the 'Super Collection' with Sans-Arc Studio, to 'Casts' with Edition Office, every collaboration has stretched us creatively and pushed us into new territory. Some standouts include our work with Civilian, which was our first international collaboration – it gave us the amazing opportunity to launch at New York Design Week and meet some amazing people in the local design community. Also, 'The Streaks' with YSG Studio stands out as it took us into new material territory. The majority of the collection is crafted from bands of naturally coloured timber, pairing different species.

***Emily: No day is ever the same. We're both ideators, so at work and at home we're always sharing concepts.*** Steve's key strengths are in product design, and I love a solid strategy. As for hobbies, I play guitar, sing, run and play tennis.

***Steve: We both love taking in design plus seeing exhibitions and arts events.*** I have a tonne of physical hobbies: surfing, mountain biking, fishing, tennis, basketball – the challenge at this point in my life is trying not to injure myself.

***Emily: I like silence when I'm working,*** but at all other times I listen to a variety of music – mostly neo soul, funk and jazz.

***Steve: I'm the opposite. Background noise is my friend.*** PBS Radio (Melbourne) has always been my go-to. We're both big live music fans. Recently, we have been to or are lined up to see bands, from The Strokes to Allah-Las and the Wu-Tang Clan. ▶



Photography (top) by Victoria Zschommler and (bottom) by Lauren Bamford. Styling by Cristina Guerrero Fernández.

“The concepts presented to us by our collaborators are challenging but enriching.”

EMILY BRADLEY, HARDWARE INNOVATOR

***Steve: Continuously improving our knowledge and approach to efficient production methods*** has been one of our biggest work challenges, and consistently growing awareness of our brand in the global market. Launching our ‘The Streaks’ at 3daysofdesign in Copenhagen last June is testament to this. We made so many great contacts with suppliers and creatives.

***Emily: We both try and support each other’s wind-down methods and passions,*** along with running the business and having a young family.

***Steve: The design community, abroad and at home, nourishes my creativity.*** Immersing ourselves in design festivals keeps us creatively challenged. They can be overwhelming, but given time to digest, I nearly always come away enriched and inspired. 3daysofdesign was super inspiring as we made sure we took time out to see what was on offer. But it was just as exciting to return home to Adelaide’s inaugural Design Week. The level of talent and creativity coming out of our hometown has blown me away. The future is bright.

***Emily: We’re always open to new ideas.*** The concepts presented to us by our collaborators are challenging but enriching.

***Steve: We love to travel and experience different cultures.*** Emily’s great at planning holidays. We were lucky enough to stay in Ricardo Bofill’s La Muralla Roja (Spain) a few years ago, which was a phenomenal experience. I’ve always been into street photography, so love any destination that scratches that itch.

***Emily: We love Copenhagen – its bike culture, plus all the sustainable and creative design around the city.*** Sicily is also a favourite destination. I could endlessly eat and drink my way through that island. We also love Oaxaca, Mexico, where you can meet the makers of so many beautiful artisan goods. Next on the list is Switzerland, where we’ll do some hiking with our kids.

***Emily: Which creative figures inspire us?*** Jean Jullien. I love his satirical references. Also, (architect) Tadao Ando for the peace and pleasure his spaces create in equal measure; plus Jaime Hayon, as his designs are so fun.

***Steve: I’m endlessly inspired***. Yasmine Ghoniem and her team at YSG reminded me that genuine collaboration means giving up control, allowing two skillsets to come together to deliver something neither of us could have created alone. I’ve also been super inspired by local talent here in Adelaide. Creatives like Daniel To and Emma Aiston of Daniel - Emma, Sans-Arc, Studio Mignone, Henry Jock Walker, Tristan Kerr, Studio Gram, Saturday Yard Work, Claire Markwick-Smith… and crazy good stuff also gets produced at the JamFactory.

***Emily: We’re collectors of design books*** and I love a historical fiction series.

***Steve: I recently got absorbed in Ronan Bouroullec’s*** **Day After Day** and I’m currently working my way through David Flack’s new book.

***Steve: My idea of true luxury – time to realise ideas and investigate engineering solutions***, plus balancing work and parenthood.

***Emily: Quality craftsmanship, sustainable materials and something that evokes joy*** when I interact with it are my ideas of true luxury. Currently on my wish list are a ‘Oïphorique’ light by Parachilna, plus a USM cabinet.

***Steve: I’d love a ‘Mother and Child’ cabinet by Adam and Arthur.*** Could you imagine owning and using that every day? Mind-blowing craftsmanship.

***Emily: Among my favourite local spots are Sofia and Mensa in Adelaide.*** Both are designed by Sans-Arc. The food’s equally delicious. For coffee, Exchange. Lucia’s and Real Falafel in the Central Market are go-to institutions.

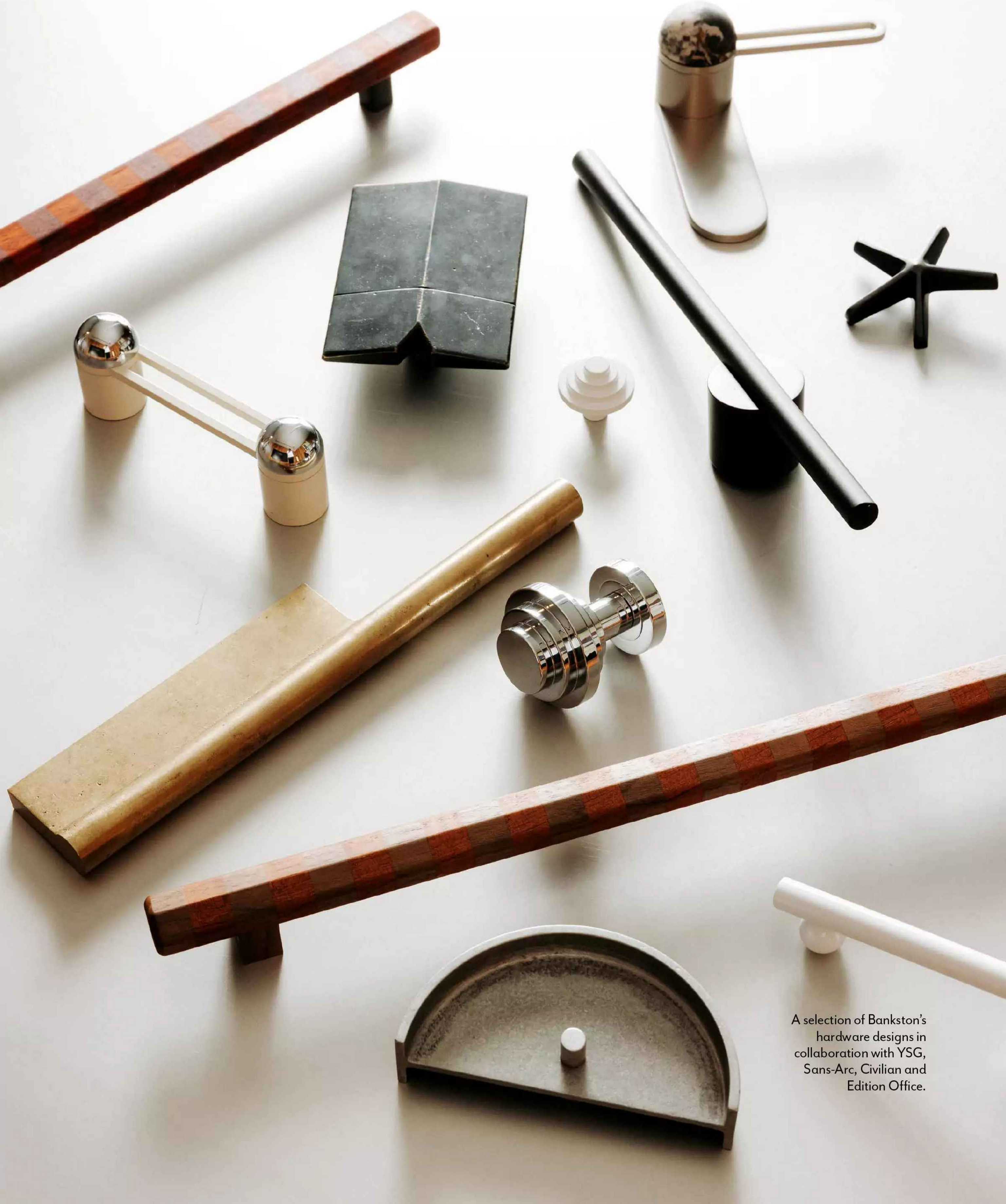
***Steve: I’m excited about what’s coming next.*** We’re exploring glazed ceramics with a new business partner, which is a buzz. **H&G**

*Bankston: bankston.com; @bankston_architectural.*

RONAN BOUROULLEC
DAY AFTER DAY

**STEVE & EMILY’S FAVOURITE THINGS**
*From top* Ragusa, Sicily. Parachilna ‘Oïphorique’ **floor lamp**, $9673/large, Nook Collections. *Day After Day* **book** by Ronan Bouroullec, $69.95, Phaidon. ‘Mother and Child’ **cabinet**, POA, Adam and Arthur.

Photograph by Getty Images (Sicily). Photograph (opposite) by Christopher Morrison.



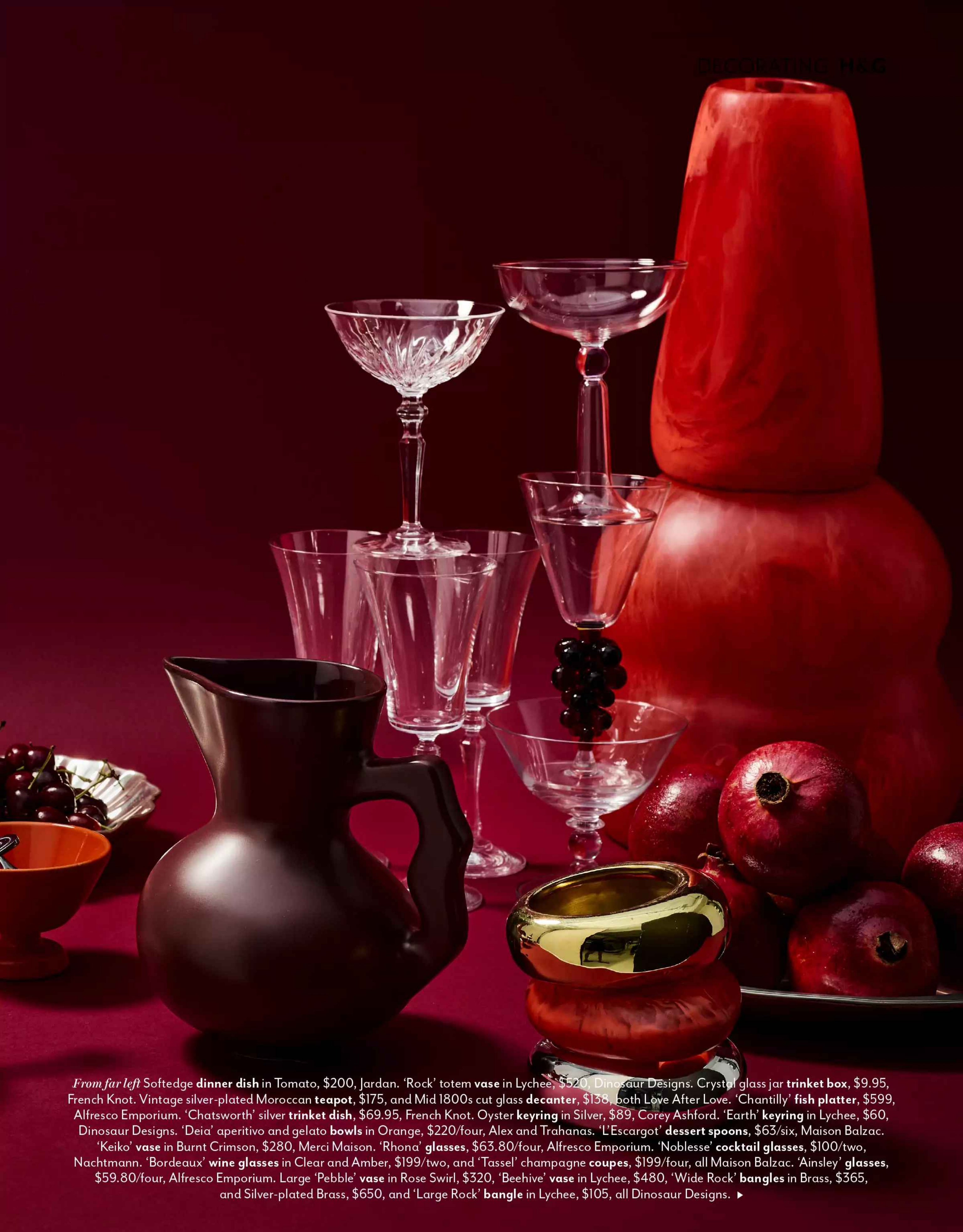
A selection of Bankston's hardware designs in collaboration with YSG, Sans-Arc, Civilian and Edition Office.

# Dishing up *drama*

Caddies, coupes, vases and other vessels do more than just hold – they flaunt, add flourish and fill every moment with flair.

STYLING *Sophie Wilson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Lauren Trompp*

Stylist's assistant, Nonci Nyoni



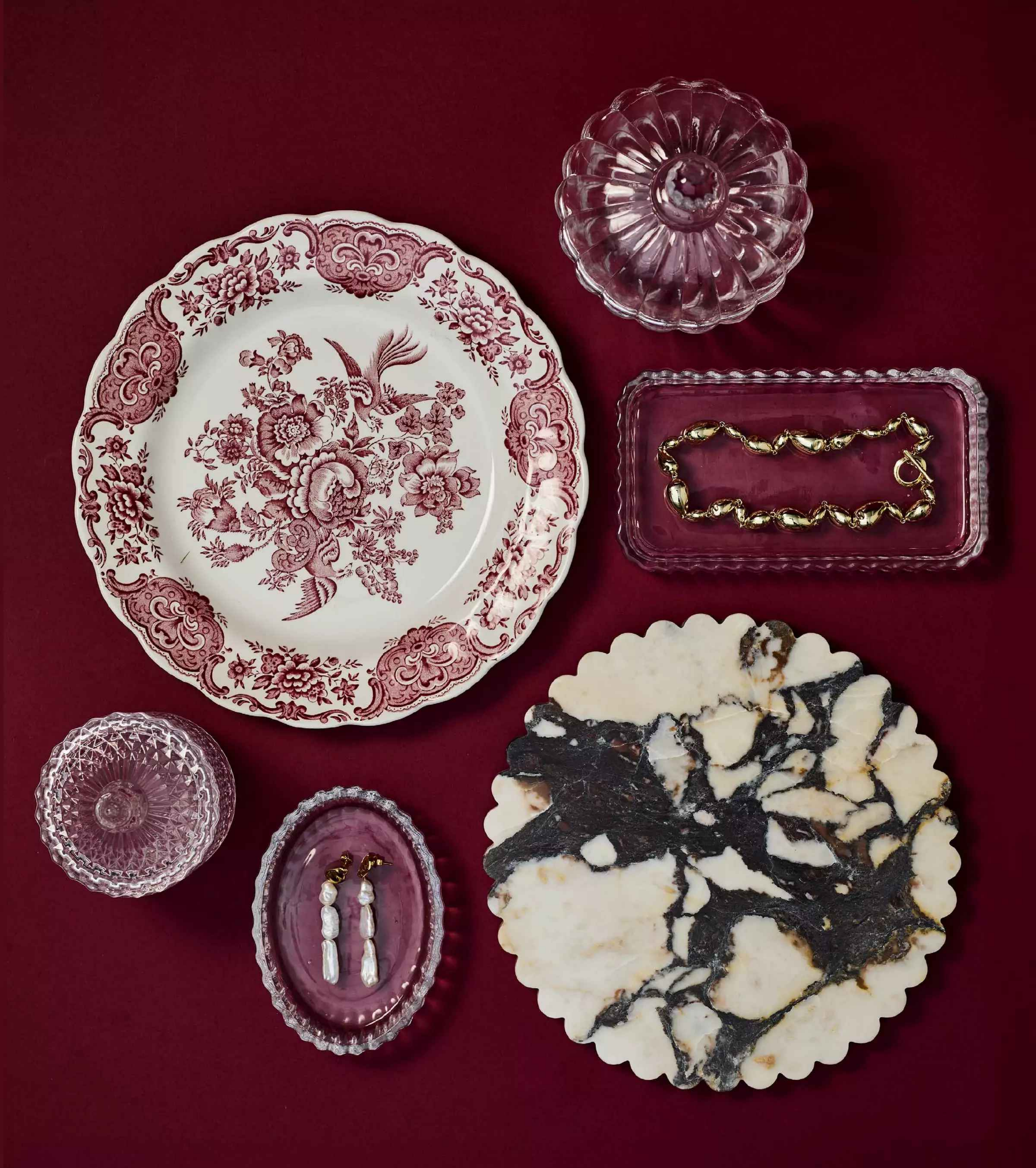
*From far left* Softedge **dinner dish** in Tomato, $200, Jardan. 'Rock' totem **vase** in Lychee, $520, Dinosaur Designs. Crystal glass jar **trinket box**, $9.95, French Knot. Vintage silver-plated Moroccan **teapot**, $175, and Mid 1800s cut glass **decanter**, $138, both Love After Love. 'Chantilly' **fish platter**, $599, Alfresco Emporium. 'Chatsworth' silver **trinket dish**, $69.95, French Knot. Oyster **keyring** in Silver, $89, Corey Ashford. 'Earth' **keyring** in Lychee, $60, Dinosaur Designs. 'Deia' aperitivo and gelato **bowls** in Orange, $220/four, Alex and Trahanas. 'L'Escargot' **dessert spoons**, $63/six, Maison Balzac. 'Keiko' **vase** in Burnt Crimson, $280, Merci Maison. 'Rhona' **glasses**, $63.80/four, Alfresco Emporium. 'Noblesse' **cocktail glasses**, $100/two, Nachtmann. 'Bordeaux' **wine glasses** in Clear and Amber, $199/two, and 'Tassel' champagne **coupes**, $199/four, all Maison Balzac. 'Ainsley' **glasses**, $59.80/four, Alfresco Emporium. Large 'Pebble' **vase** in Rose Swirl, $320, 'Beehive' **vase** in Lychee, $480, 'Wide Rock' **bangles** in Brass, $365, and Silver-plated Brass, $650, and 'Large Rock' **bangle** in Lychee, $105, all Dinosaur Designs. ▶

Silver 'Bon Appetit' **trinket dish,** $29.95, French Knot. **OPPOSITE** *From left to right* 'Rock' totem **vase** in Lychee, $520, Dinosaur Designs. 'Pomponette' **vase** in Amber, $189, Maison Balzac. 'Lituus' **vase** in mirror-polished stainless steel, $480, Georg Jensen. Medium tortoiseshell-printed **vase,** $104, Love After Love. Large 'Beehive' **vase** in Lychee, $480, Dinosaur Designs. 'Jean' **vase,** $229, Maison Balzac. ▶

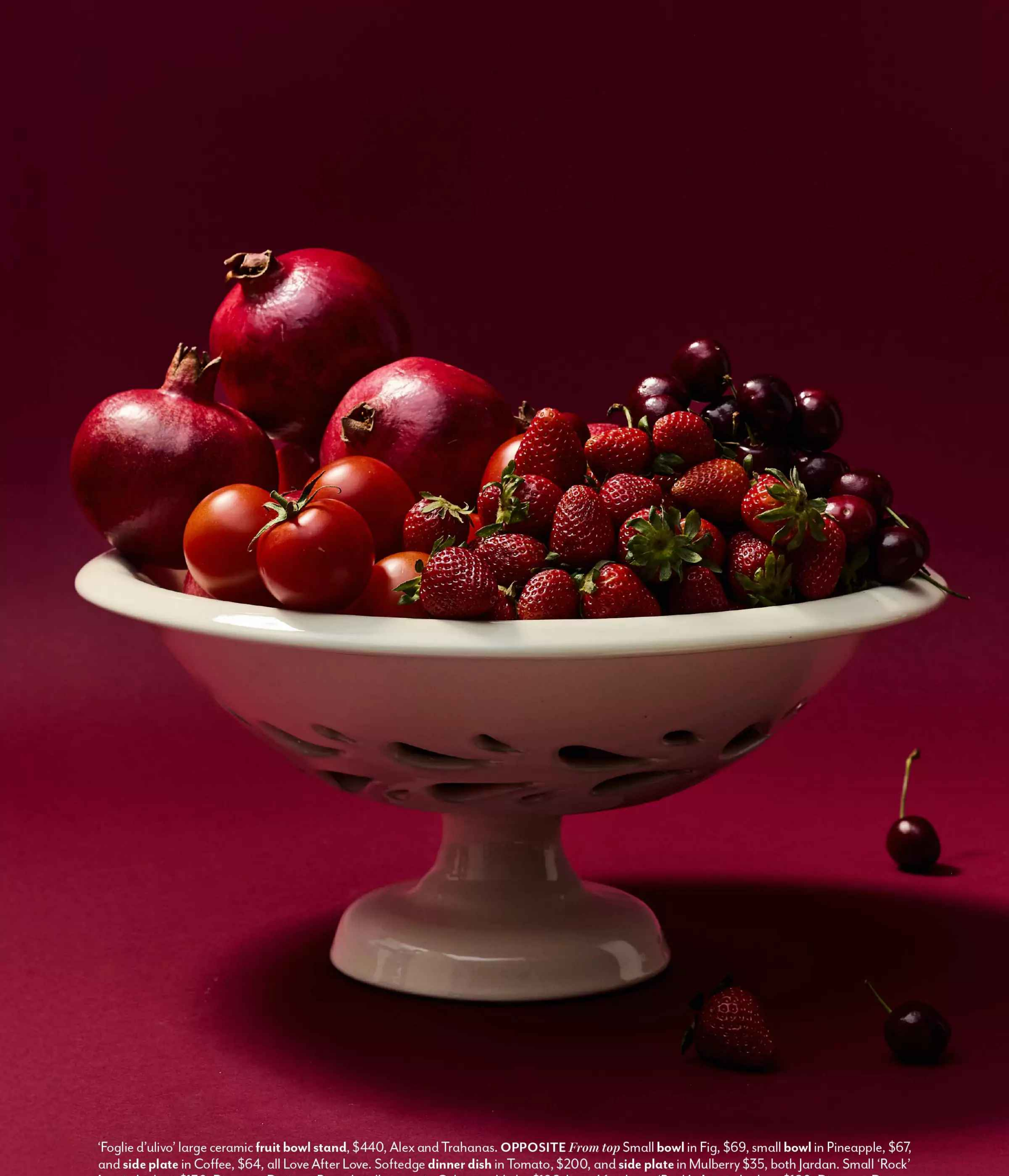
'Keiko' **vase** in Burnt Crimson, $280, Merci Maison. **OPPOSITE** *From left to right* 'Ainsley' champagne **glass**, $59.80/four, Alfresco Emporium. 'Tassel' champagne **coupes**, $199/four, and 'Bordeaux' **wine glasses** in Clear and Amber, $199/two, all Maison Balzac. Espresso **martini glass**, $110/four, Spiegelau. 'Rhona' champagne **flute**, $63.80/four, Alfresco Emporium. 'Noblesse' crystal cocktail **glass**, $100/two, Nachtmann. ▶

**Side plate** in Mulberry , $35, Jardan. Pearl necklace, stylist's own. **OPPOSITE** *Clockwise from top left* Jedda Clay 'Grid' **soap dish** in Red Ash, Cotheory 'Eclipse' small sculpted **bowl** in Rosso Alicante, $149, Andrée Jardin 'Heritage' **soap holder** in Ash Wood, $29, TF Design small 'Sculpt' **tray**, $150, and Cotheory 'Palazzo' small scalloped **tray** in Rosso Alicante, $89, Orris 'La Déesse' **artisanal soap**, $35, 'Luna' **bowl** in Red Ash, $65, all Oliver Thom. ▶

ORRIS



*Clockwise from top left* Vintage 1970s Asiatic pheasant **dinner plate**, $128, Love After Love. 'Evie' large ribbed glass **trinket jar** with lid, $14.95, French Knot. 'Marquis' rectangle **tray**, $25, Provincial Home Living. 'Elia' **necklace**, $860, Alex and Trahanas. Round scallop **tray** in Calacatta Viola, $196, Love After Love. 'Marquis' **soap dish** in Clear, $15, Provincial Home Living. 'Cielo' long pearl drop **earrings** in Gold, $240, Saint Valentine. Crystal glass jar **trinket box**, $9.95, French Knot. **OPPOSITE** 'Vienna' **mugs**, $69.95/four, French Knot. 'L'Escargot' **dessert spoons**, $63/six, Maison Balzac. ▶



'Foglie d'ulivo' large ceramic **fruit bowl stand**, $440, Alex and Trahanas. **OPPOSITE** *From top* Small **bowl** in Fig, $69, small **bowl** in Pineapple, $67, and **side plate** in Coffee, $64, all Love After Love. Softedge **dinner dish** in Tomato, $200, and **side plate** in Mulberry $35, both Jardan. Small 'Rock' **plate** in Lychee, $130, Dinosaur Designs. Round scallop **tray** in Calacatta Viola, $196, Love After Love. 'Rock' **plate** in Lychee, $180, Dinosaur Designs. 'Roseo' ceramic scalloped **serving plate**, $300, Alex and Trahanas. Pizza **server** in Coffee, $198, Love After Love. **H&G**

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# Entertaining

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH BOWLS FULL OF GOODNESS

'Lido' pasta bowl, 'Figura Pinch' water jug, 'Benvenuti' main and side plates, all Alex and Trahanas. Grinder, Italian hand-painted bowl and napikn, all Victoria Collison.

Styling by Olga Lewis. Photograph by John Paul Urizar. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

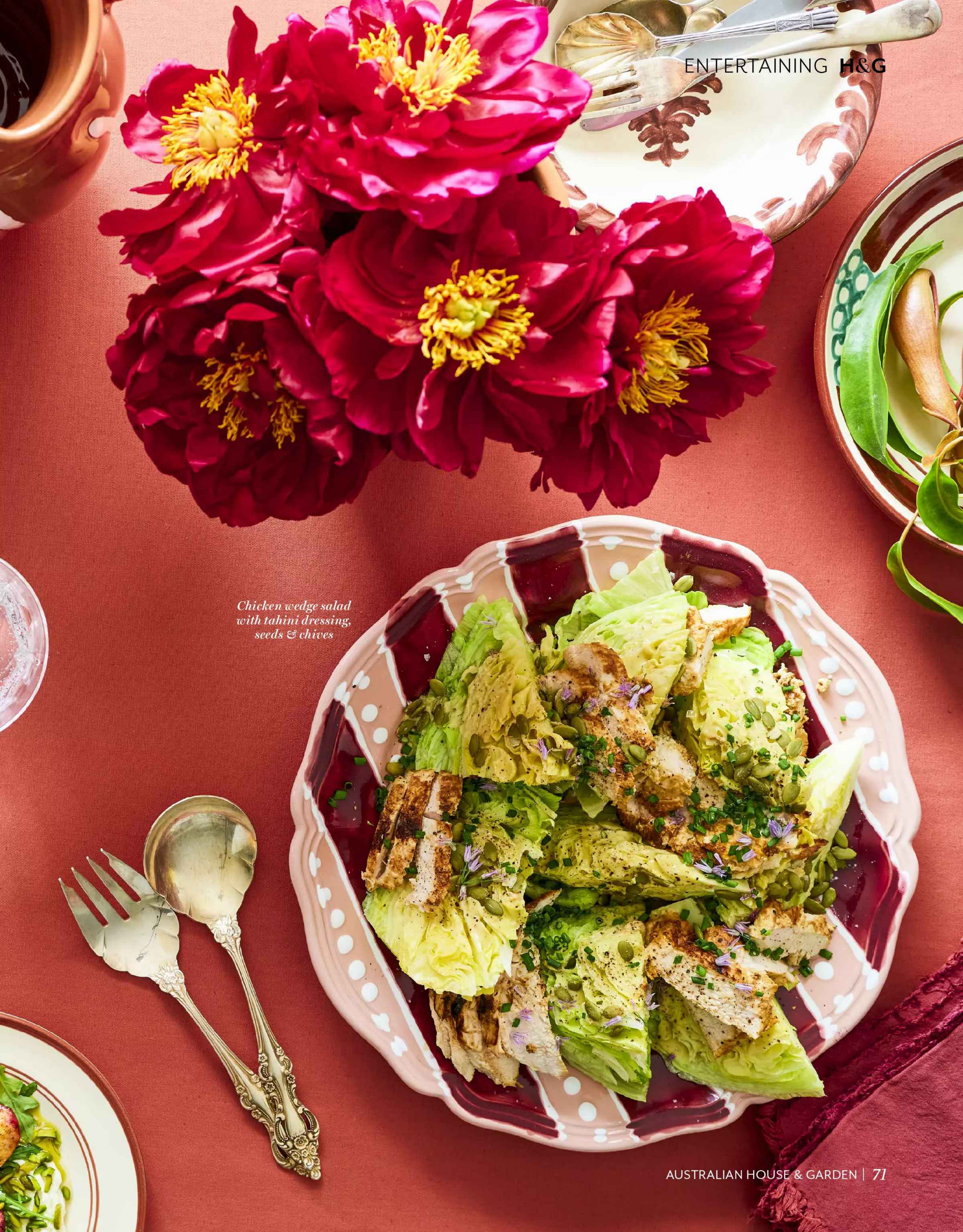
# Summer *lovin'*

The Cordony Kitchen dishes up vibrant salads, each one bursting with fresh flavours.

RECIPES *Amanda Cordony* | STYLING *Olga Lewis*
PHOTOGRAPHY *John Paul Urizar*

*Peach, prosciutto & pistachio salad with ricotta & blue cheese*

Striped bowl, jug, fish dish and plates, all Alex and Trahanas. Hand-painted bowls, grinder, candlesticks and linen, all Victoria Collison.



*Chicken wedge salad with tahini dressing, seeds & chives*

Striped bowl, jug, plates and 'Vini' pasta bowl (opposite), all Alex and Trahanas. Italian hand-painted footed bowl, grinder, candlesticks and 19th Century French linen napkins in Sienna, all Victoria Collison.

Hair and make-up by Samantha Powell.

*Quick pickled cucumber salad with tzatziki*

COOK'S NOTE

*Make the tzatziki up to three days ahead, the flavours only improve.*

Grinder, Italian hand-painted bowl (this page and opposite) and linen, all Victoria Collison. *Opposite* 'Spirale' bowl stand and 'Vini' pasta bowl, Alex and Trahanas.

## QUICK PICKLED CUCUMBER SALAD WITH TZATZIKI

*Prep time: 25 minutes + resting. Serves: 4.*

¼ red onion, thinly sliced
½ cup roughly chopped Sicilian olives
50g Danish feta, crumbled
2 tablespoons (20ml) extra virgin olive oil
**Tzatziki**
1 Lebanese cucumber
1 cup (260g) Greek yoghurt
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tablespoon finely chopped dill, fronds reserved, to serve
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 tablespoon (20ml) extra virgin olive oil
¼ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
**Pickled cucumbers**
½ cup (125ml) white vinegar
½ cup (125ml) raspberry vinegar
1 cup (250ml) filtered water
1 tablespoon (20ml) runny honey
1 tablespoon sea salt
2 Lebanese cucumbers

**1** To make tzatziki, coarsely grate one cucumber, squeezing out as much liquid as possible, and place in a medium bowl. Add yoghurt, garlic, dill, oregano, oil and pepper. Mix to combine. Place in fridge until needed.
**2** To make pickled cucumbers, whisk white vinegar, raspberry vinegar, water, honey and sea salt in a medium bowl until combined.
**3** Chop cucumbers into bite-size chunks and add to bowl. Rest for 15 minutes. Drain well.
**4** Spread tzatziki over a serving plate. Add cucumbers, onion, olives, feta and dill fronds. Drizzle over oil, season and serve.

## QUINOA SALAD WITH CHICKPEAS, PEAS, MINT & CHILLI OIL

*Prep time: 15 minutes. Cooking time: 15 minutes. Serves: 4.*

1 cup (190g) quinoa, rinsed
1½ cups (375ml) cold water
2 small lemons, juice (60ml)
2 cups (500g) frozen peas
400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1 cup (20g) mint leaves
**Chilli oil**
4 shallots (10g), finely sliced
2 teaspoons chilli flakes
2 garlic cloves, crushed
6 tablespoons (120ml) extra virgin olive oil

**1** Place quinoa, water and lemon juice in a medium saucepan. Bring to a low simmer over medium heat. Cook for 12 minutes, stirring frequently towards the end to prevent sticking, until liquid has absorbed. Fluff up with a fork.
**2** To make chilli oil, place shallots, chilli, garlic and oil in a small saucepan over low to medium heat. Heat through, stirring, then pour over quinoa. Toss to coat.
**3** Place peas in a heatproof bowl, cover with boiling water, leave for 2–3 minutes or until peas are tender. Drain well.
**4** Add peas, chickpeas and mint to quinoa and stir to combine. Place quinoa salad in a serving bowl, season and serve. ▶

*Quinoa salad with chickpeas, peas, mint & chilli oil*

**COOK'S NOTE**

*The chilli oil adds a punchy finish to grilled vegetables, eggs or pasta.*

Low round casserole in Brilliant White, Chasseur. 'Lido' and 'Vini' pasta bowls, 'Benvenuti' and 'Roseo' ceramic plates, all Alex and Trahanas. Italian hand-painted bowl, grinder and linen, all Victoria Collison.

## CHICKEN WEDGE SALAD WITH TAHINI DRESSING, SEEDS & CHIVES

*Prep time: 20 minutes + overnight. Cooking time: 10 minutes. Serves: 4.*

2 chicken breasts, sliced in half lengthways
1 cup (260g) Greek yoghurt
2 tablespoons (40ml) olive oil
1 teaspoon sea salt
¼ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
1 iceberg lettuce, chopped into 8 wedges
2 tablespoons toasted sunflower seeds (see note), 5g finely chopped chives, (chive flowers reserved, optional), 2 tablespoons (40ml) extra virgin olive oil, to serve

**Tahini dressing**
2 tablespoons (40ml) tahini
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
2 lemons, juice (80ml)
2 tablespoons (40ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon (20ml) runny honey
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 teaspoon sea salt
¼ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

**1** In a medium bowl, combine chicken, yoghurt, 1 tablespoon of the oil, salt and pepper. Cover and place in fridge overnight.
**2** To make tahini dressing, whisk together tahini, mustard, lemon juice, oil, honey, garlic, salt and pepper until smooth. If needed, add 1–2 teaspoons of water to loosen.
**3** Heat a large frying pan over medium heat. Add remaining oil, then cook chicken for 5 minutes each side, until golden and cooked through. Transfer to a plate and rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice.
**4** Arrange lettuce wedges on a serving platter. Spoon dressing generously over wedges, then nestle chicken in wedges. Scatter over seeds, chives and flowers, if using, drizzle over oil and season with cracked black pepper. Serve.

### COOK'S NOTES

Toast seeds in a dry frying pan over medium heat until fragrant for extra crunch. Swap chicken for grilled prawns for a lighter option.

## PEACH, PROSCIUTTO & PISTACHIO SALAD WITH RICOTTA & BLUE CHEESE

*Prep time: 20 minutes. Cooking time: 20 minutes. Serves: 4.*

3 firm peaches, pitted and quartered
1 tablespoon (20ml) extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve
2 tablespoons (40ml) honey
1 cup (250g) fresh ricotta
80g creamy blue cheese
50g baby rocket leaves
100g prosciutto, thinly sliced, torn into small pieces
¼ cup finely chopped pistachios

**Dressing**
2 tablespoons (40ml) extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons (40ml) verjuice
1 tablespoon (20g) honey

**1** Preheat oven to 220°C (200°C fan). Line a medium baking tray with baking paper.
**2** Place peaches on tray, drizzle with oil and honey and season with cracked black pepper. Toss to coat. Bake for 20 minutes, until golden. Set aside to cool slightly.
**3** Place ricotta and blue cheese in a blender and blend until smooth and creamy.
**4** To make dressing, whisk oil, verjuice and honey in a small bowl. Season.
**5** Using the back of a spoon, spread ricotta mixture over a large serving platter. Scatter over rocket. Layer with peaches and tuck prosciutto in and around rocket and peaches.
**6** Drizzle over dressing, scatter over pistachios and serve.

### COOK'S NOTES

Swap peaches for nectarines when in season. If peach stone is hard to remove, scoop it out with a teaspoon. A creamy blue cheese such as Tarago Shadows of Blue works beautifully in this recipe.

# AT YOUR SERVICE

Sun-kissed tones in tableware and kitchen companions
set the scene for laidback summer entertaining.

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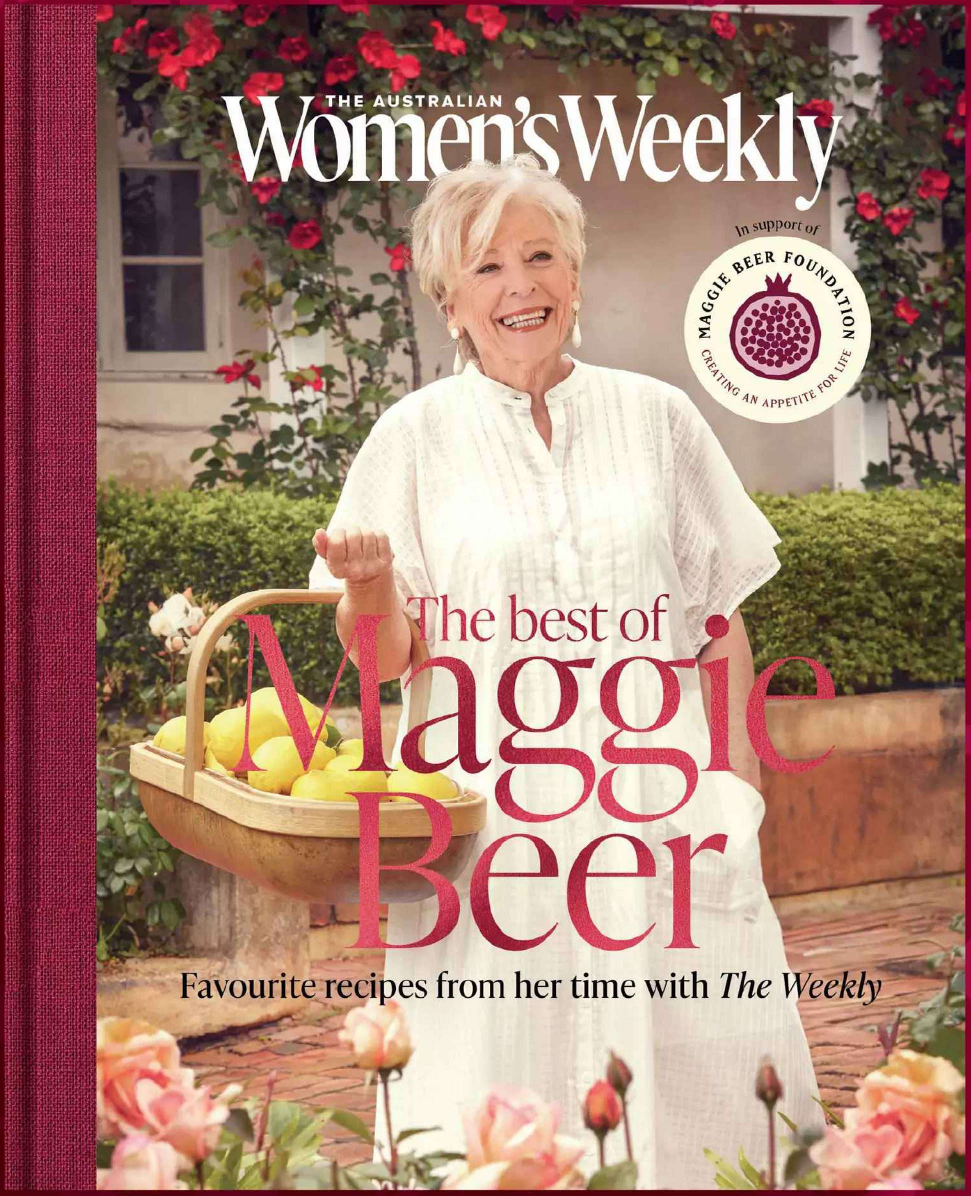
**1** KitchenAid 'Core' 1.7L **kettle** in Empire Red, $219, Harvey Norman. **2** 'Sobremesa' **serving bowl**, $79, Hay. **3** 'Misette' stripe linen **napkins**, $335/four, Farfetch. **4** Paris u'Select **pepper mill** (27cm), $199, Peugeot. **5** 'Volute' **wine glasses**, $99/two, Maison Balzac. **6** 'Cabana' vine leaf **cake stand**, $277, Farfetch. **7** Les Ottomans botanical **plates** in Grapes on Burgundy, $95, Hands. **8** Low round **casserole** in Sunset (30cm – 2.5L), $729, Chasseur. **9** PureForma minimalist four-person **cutlery set** in Matte Gold, $187, Veverra. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

Celebrate the heart-warming flavours *of* Maggie Beer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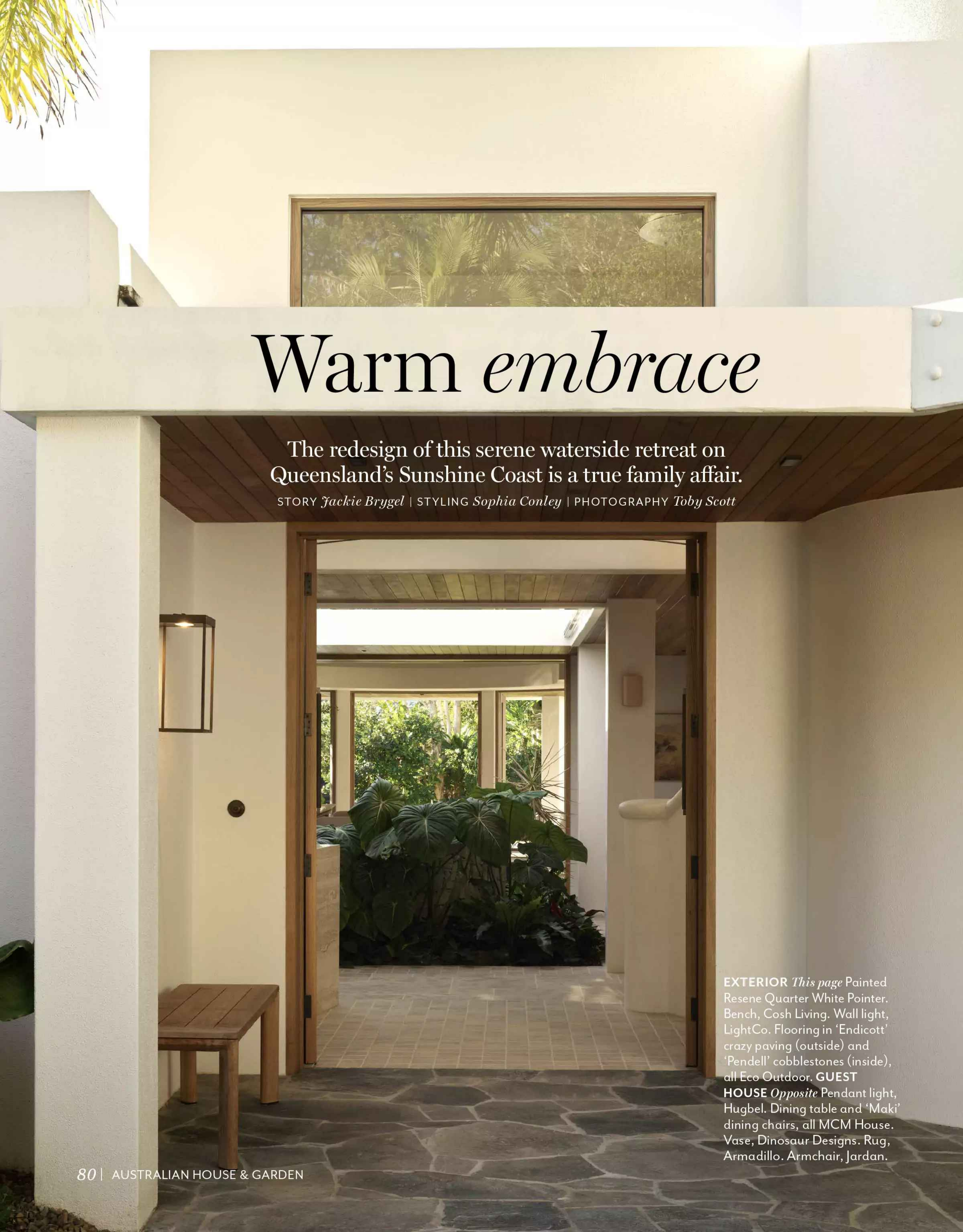
# Houses

## HOMES WITH HEART AND SOUL DESIGNED FOR RELAXATION

Renegade Design Studio created a soft materials palette layered with Taj Mahal quartzite surfaces, limed rendered walls, glazed tiles, timber veneer joinery and limestone floor tiles. Turn the page for the full tour.

Photograph by Toby Scott. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

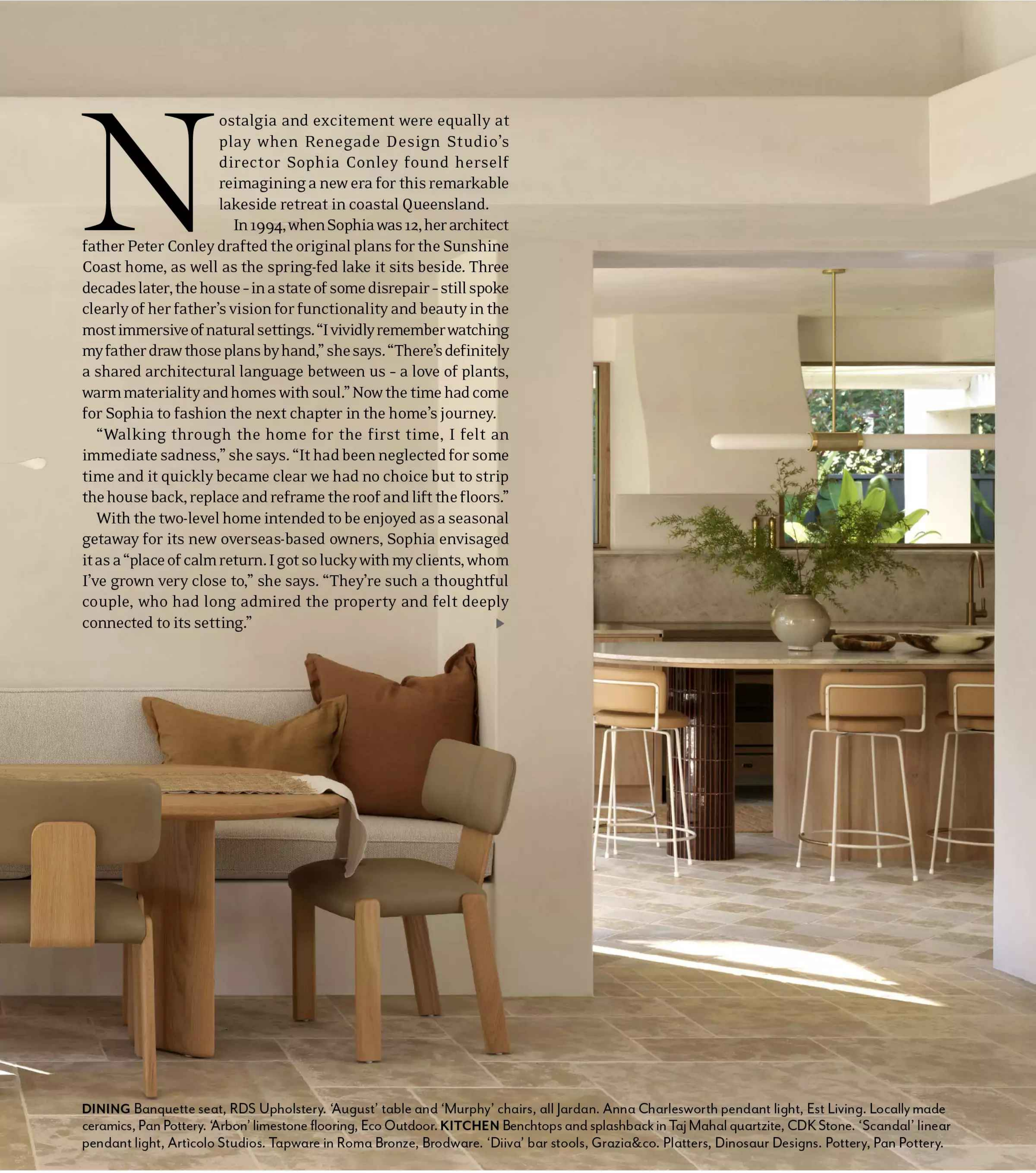


# Warm *embrace*

The redesign of this serene waterside retreat on Queensland's Sunshine Coast is a true family affair.

STORY *Jackie Brygel* | STYLING *Sophia Conley* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Toby Scott*

**EXTERIOR** *This page* Painted Resene Quarter White Pointer. Bench, Cosh Living. Wall light, LightCo. Flooring in 'Endicott' crazy paving (outside) and 'Pendell' cobblestones (inside), all Eco Outdoor. **GUEST HOUSE** *Opposite* Pendant light, Hugbel. Dining table and 'Maki' dining chairs, all MCM House. Vase, Dinosaur Designs. Rug, Armadillo. Armchair, Jardan.



Nostalgia and excitement were equally at play when Renegade Design Studio's director Sophia Conley found herself reimagining a new era for this remarkable lakeside retreat in coastal Queensland.

In 1994, when Sophia was 12, her architect father Peter Conley drafted the original plans for the Sunshine Coast home, as well as the spring-fed lake it sits beside. Three decades later, the house – in a state of some disrepair – still spoke clearly of her father's vision for functionality and beauty in the most immersive of natural settings. "I vividly remember watching my father draw those plans by hand," she says. "There's definitely a shared architectural language between us – a love of plants, warm materiality and homes with soul." Now the time had come for Sophia to fashion the next chapter in the home's journey.

"Walking through the home for the first time, I felt an immediate sadness," she says. "It had been neglected for some time and it quickly became clear we had no choice but to strip the house back, replace and reframe the roof and lift the floors."

With the two-level home intended to be enjoyed as a seasonal getaway for its new overseas-based owners, Sophia envisaged it as a "place of calm return. I got so lucky with my clients, whom I've grown very close to," she says. "They're such a thoughtful couple, who had long admired the property and felt deeply connected to its setting." ▶

**DINING** Banquette seat, RDS Upholstery. 'August' table and 'Murphy' chairs, all Jardan. Anna Charlesworth pendant light, Est Living. Locally made ceramics, Pan Pottery. 'Arbon' limestone flooring, Eco Outdoor. **KITCHEN** Benchtops and splashback in Taj Mahal quartzite, CDK Stone. 'Scandal' linear pendant light, Articolo Studios. Tapware in Roma Bronze, Brodware. 'Diiva' bar stools, Grazia&co. Platters, Dinosaur Designs. Pottery, Pan Pottery.

Sophia and her team reworked the floor plan and designed a light-filled addition with a luminous new kitchen, as well as oversaw the structural works – undertaken by DWS Building.

"The kitchen extension allowed for a more generous heart to the home, while the guest house – redesigned with a kitchenette and two new bedrooms with ensuites – was reoriented and connected to the main residence by a covered breezeway. It's a light-filled threshold that dissolves the line between indoors and out," says Sophia.

Intentionally, the interiors are purist in style and design, with a tactile assemblage of organic materials creating a sense of cohesion and tranquillity. Lime-plastered walls impart a clouded serenity that shifts throughout the day, while solid European oak doors convey a comforting warmth. Limestone flooring and surfaces clad in marble and quartzite with accents of bronze further lend life and quiet energy to the spaces.

As Sophia says: "We let materials do the talking. I'd describe the finished style as Australian-Mediterranean – earthy, textural, serene and deeply connected to its landscape."

Craftsmanship is a delineating link throughout, each domain showcasing the work of Australian makers and artists in the form of bespoke furniture pieces, custom lighting and handmade ceramics. "Every detail was carefully considered, brought to life by a team of local tradespeople whose care and skill can be felt in every corner," says Sophia. "Many of the special elements that my father had designed I retained, such as the curved fireplace and the solid curved stairs and balustrade – all of which are now back in fashion!"

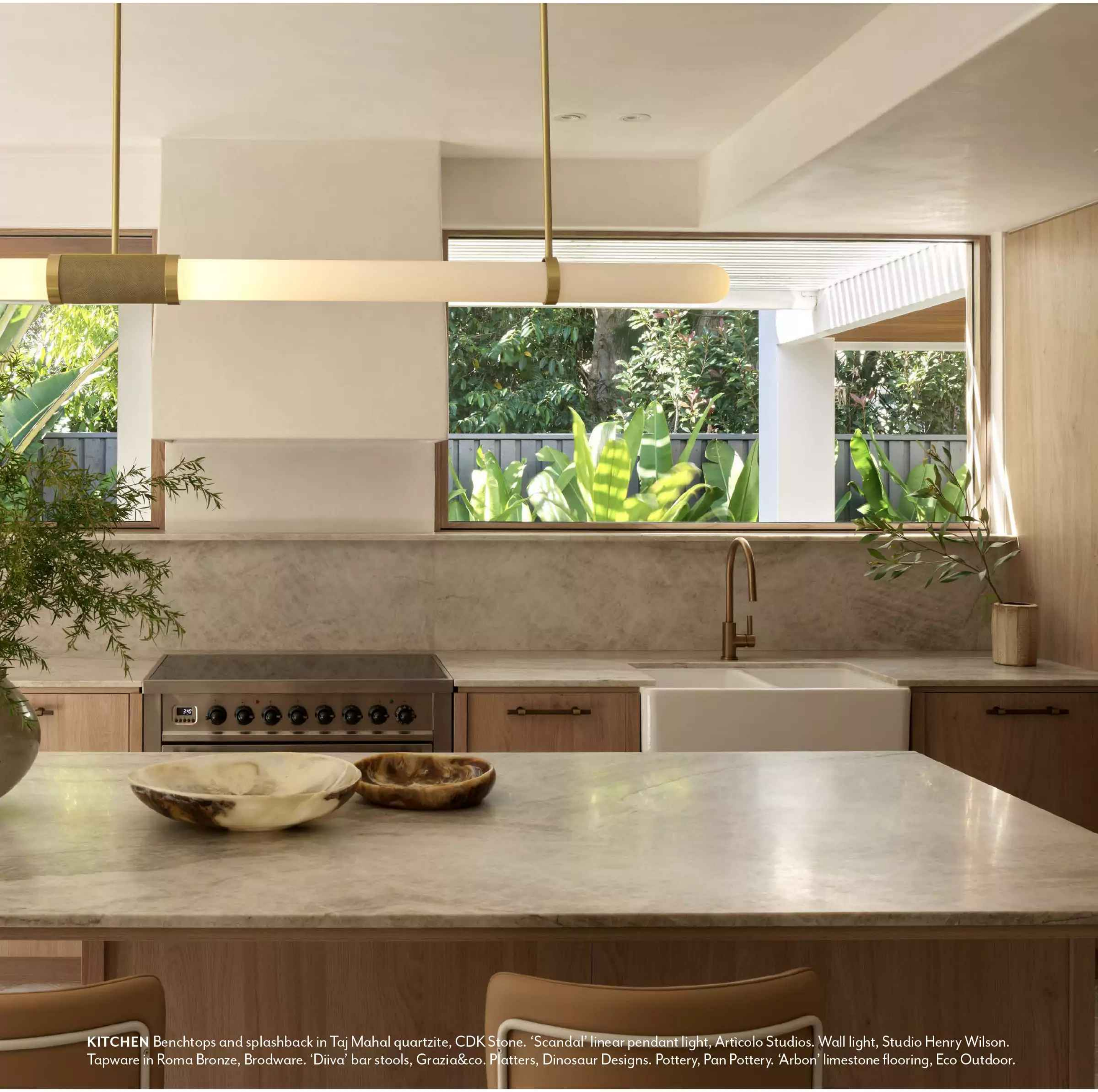
Fittingly, too, emerald-tinged Verde Alpi marble claims top billing in the powder room, offering a nod to the tropical planting in which the house appears nestled. Providing multiple spaces of reflection and repose for the owners, the lushly reimagined garden is frequented, as it always has been, by local wildlife.

"The garden was designed to feel native to the site, a place where great egrets, wallabies and black cockatoos drift in and out of view," says Sophia. "The landscaping embraces the untamed beauty of the lakeside, with layered planting that softens the transition from built to natural, from structure to shoreline."

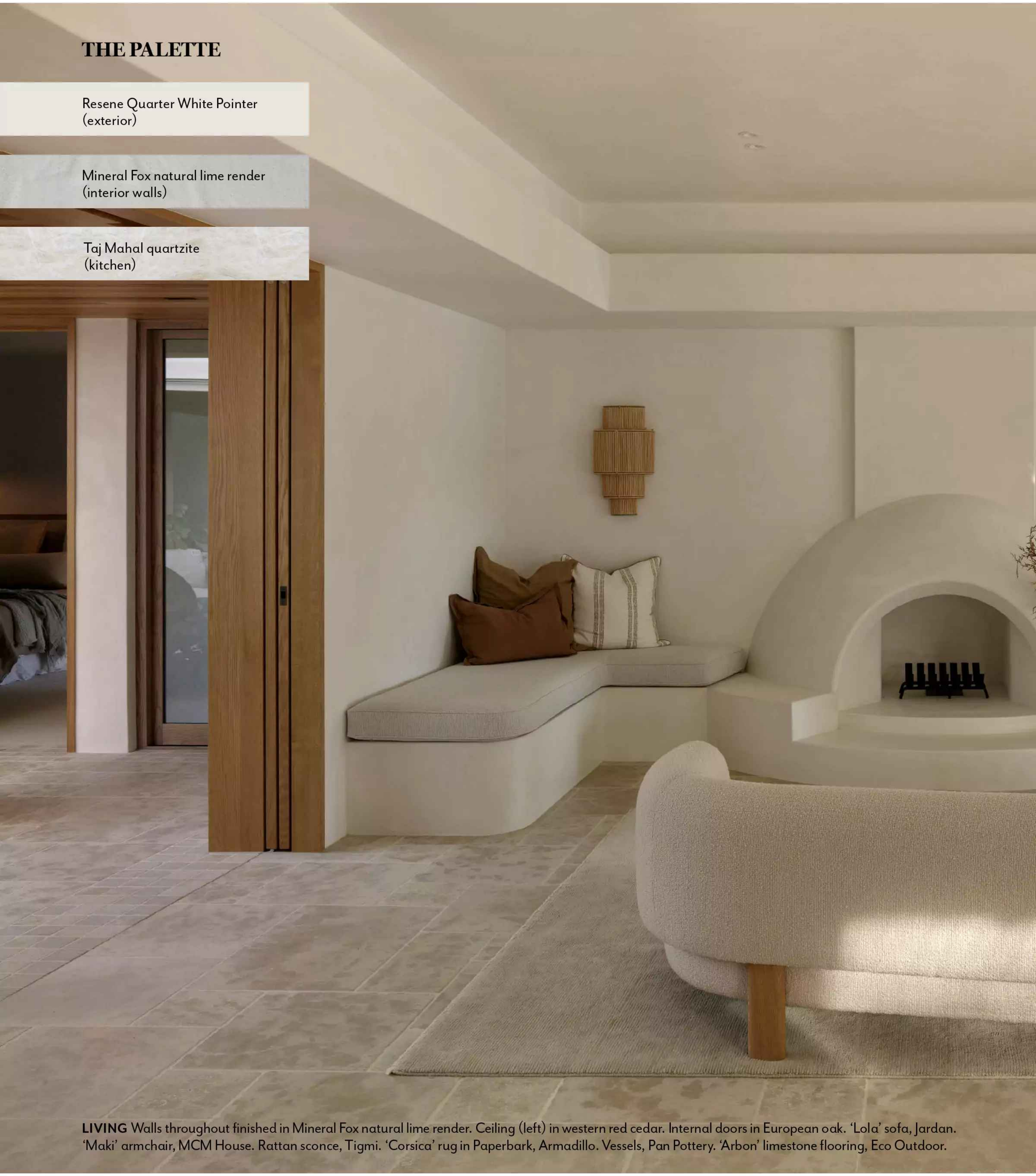
For Sophia, this was a particularly meaningful, deeply personal project. One that has brought her, and her father, great joy.

"He was thrilled with the renovation," she says, smiling. "And the fact that it happened to be his daughter who designed it via her own studio. It was an incredibly special opportunity to revisit one of his projects and reimagine it with the same intention and heart he brought to it 30 years ago. This project began not just with a brief, but with trust. It's a home to return to again and again." ▶

***Renegade Design Studio:** renegadedesignstudio.com.au.*
***DWS Building:** dwsbuilding.com.au.*



**KITCHEN** Benchtops and splashback in Taj Mahal quartzite, CDK Stone. 'Scandal' linear pendant light, Articolo Studios. Wall light, Studio Henry Wilson. Tapware in Roma Bronze, Brodware. 'Diiva' bar stools, Grazia&co. Platters, Dinosaur Designs. Pottery, Pan Pottery. 'Arbon' limestone flooring, Eco Outdoor.



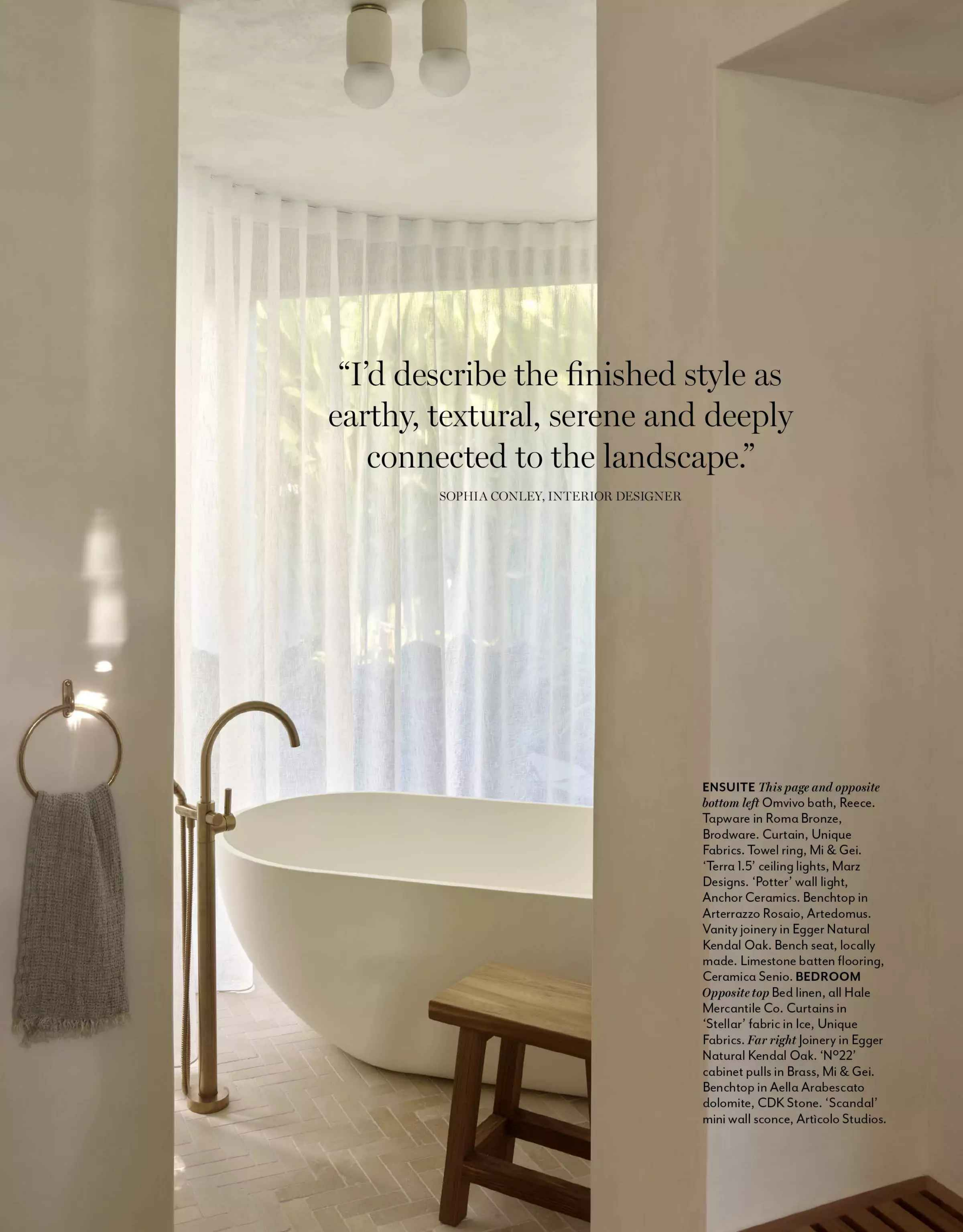
## THE PALETTE

Resene Quarter White Pointer
(exterior)

Mineral Fox natural lime render
(interior walls)

Taj Mahal quartzite
(kitchen)

**LIVING** Walls throughout finished in Mineral Fox natural lime render. Ceiling (left) in western red cedar. Internal doors in European oak. 'Lola' sofa, Jardan. 'Maki' armchair, MCM House. Rattan sconce, Tigmi. 'Corsica' rug in Paperbark, Armadillo. Vessels, Pan Pottery. 'Arbon' limestone flooring, Eco Outdoor.



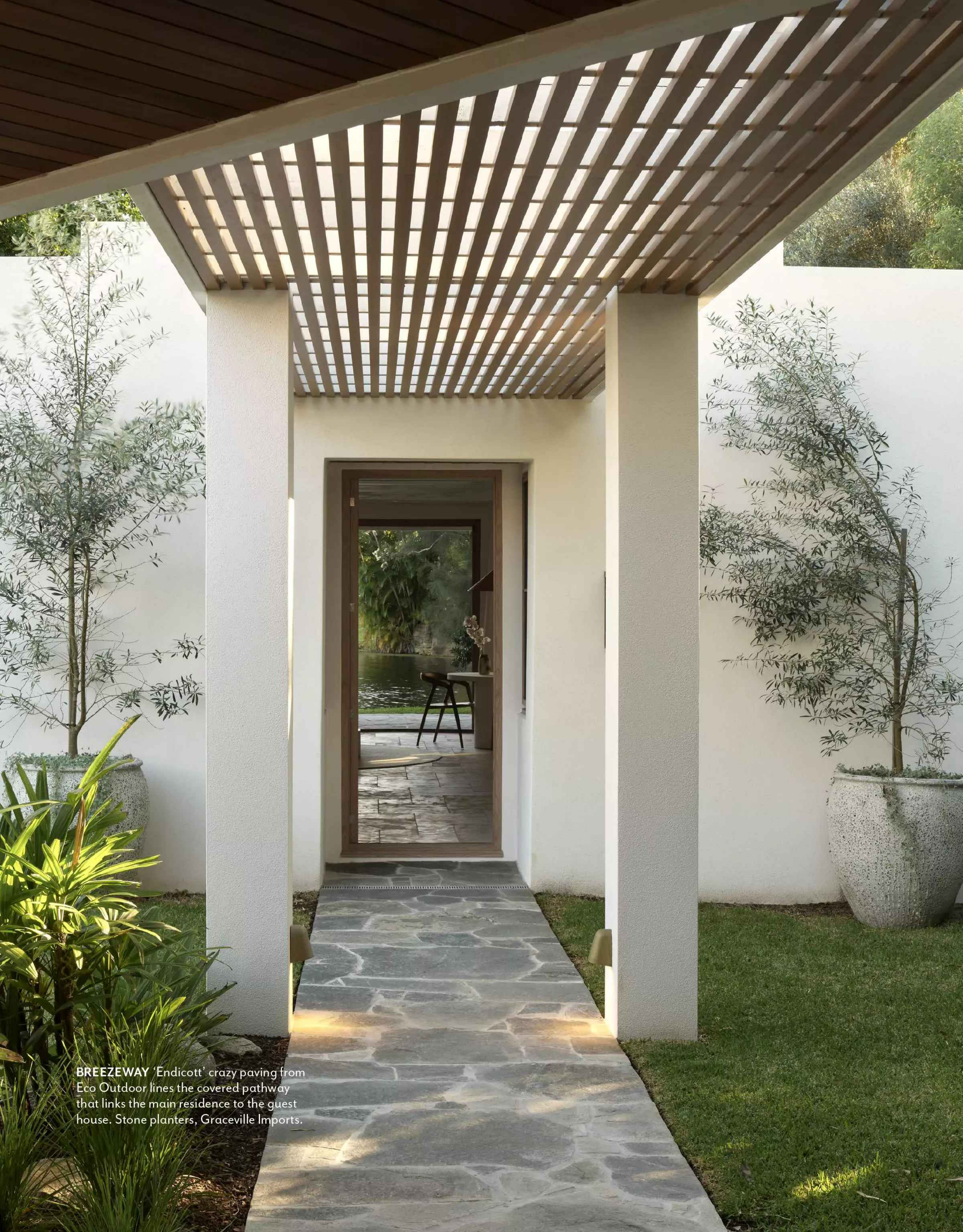
> “I’d describe the finished style as earthy, textural, serene and deeply connected to the landscape.”

SOPHIA CONLEY, INTERIOR DESIGNER

**ENSUITE** *This page and opposite bottom left* Omvivo bath, Reece. Tapware in Roma Bronze, Brodware. Curtain, Unique Fabrics. Towel ring, Mi & Gei. ‘Terra 1.5’ ceiling lights, Marz Designs. ‘Potter’ wall light, Anchor Ceramics. Benchtop in Arterrazzo Rosaio, Artedomus. Vanity joinery in Egger Natural Kendal Oak. Bench seat, locally made. Limestone batten flooring, Ceramica Senio. **BEDROOM** *Opposite top* Bed linen, all Hale Mercantile Co. Curtains in ‘Stellar’ fabric in Ice, Unique Fabrics. *Far right* Joinery in Egger Natural Kendal Oak. ‘N°22’ cabinet pulls in Brass, Mi & Gei. Benchtop in Aella Arabescato dolomite, CDK Stone. ‘Scandal’ mini wall sconce, Artìcolo Studios.

### THIS IS THE LIFE

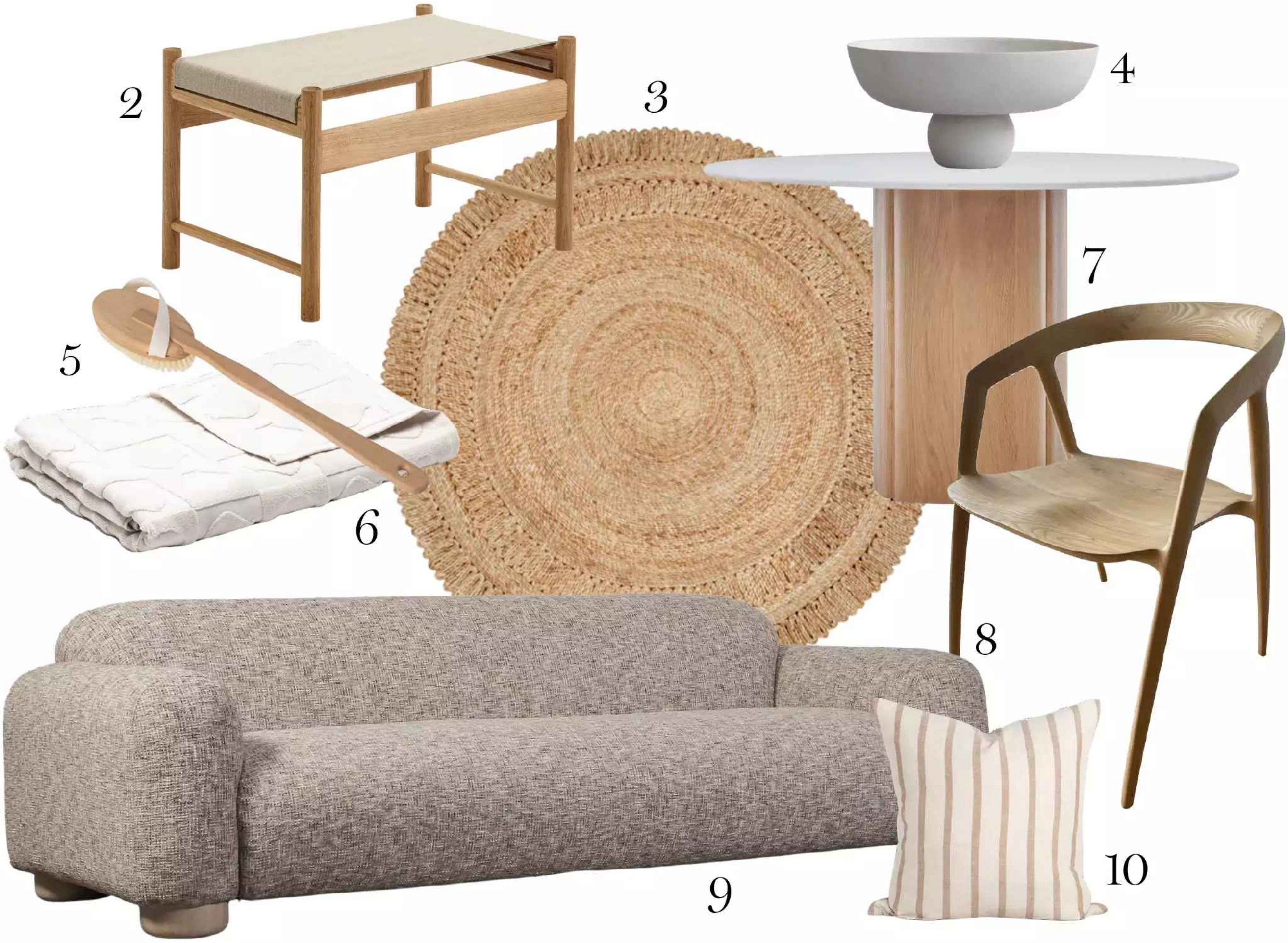
"The home's north-west orientation ensures it captures abundant winter sunlight, which is central to its identity as a seasonal retreat," says Sophia. Certainly, Sophia and her team relished their involvement. "Not only did we execute the design and oversee the build, but we also furnished and styled the home right down to the sheets on the bed, and the pots and pans in the kitchen."



**BREEZEWAY** 'Endicott' crazy paving from Eco Outdoor lines the covered pathway that links the main residence to the guest house. Stone planters, Graceville Imports.

# THE SOURCE

*A palette of timber, rattan and ivory lends a coastal aesthetic.*



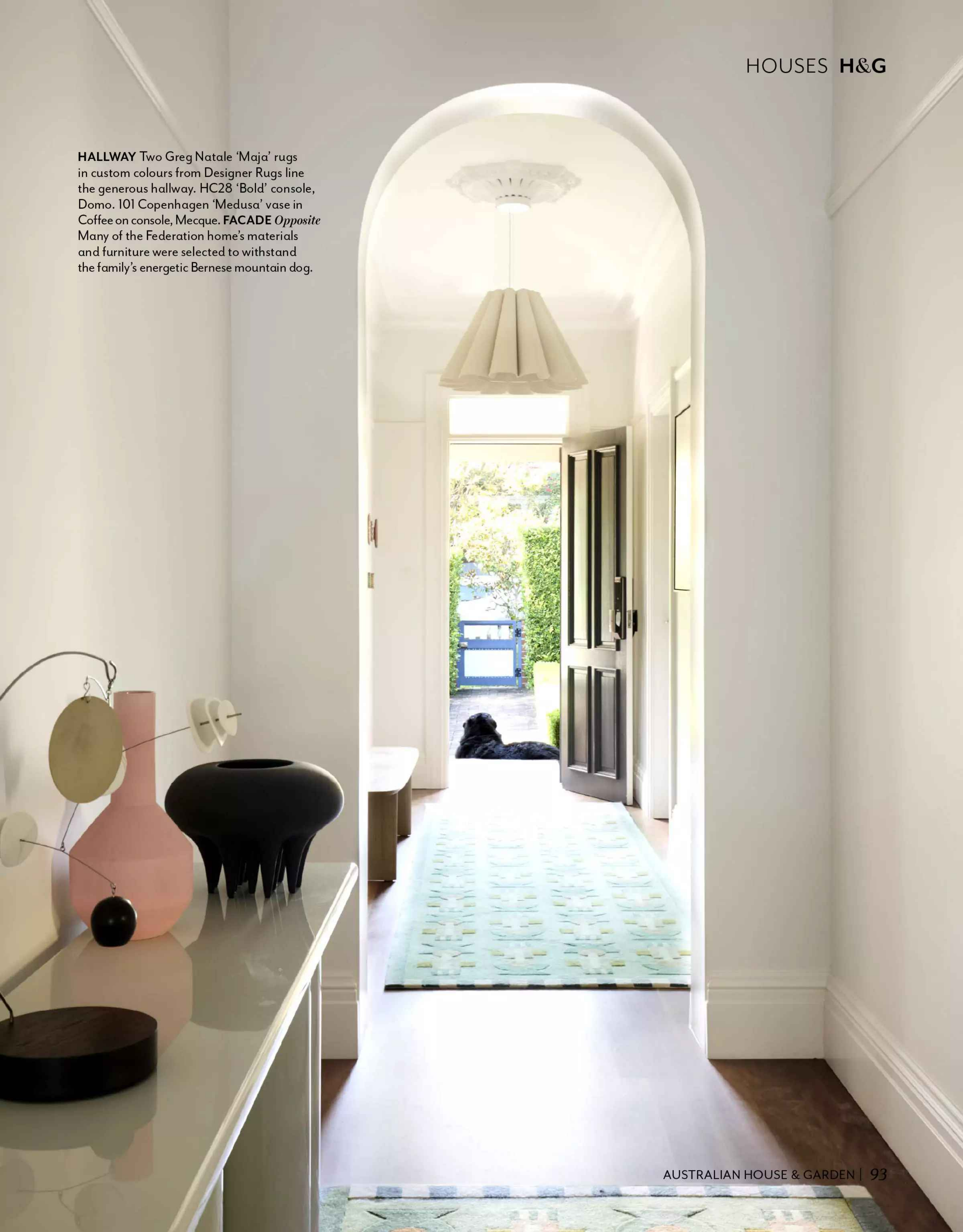
**1** 'Sorrento' natural twine **pendant light**, $649, Zest Lighting. **2** Brdr. Krüger 'HB' **footstool** in Oiled Oak, $1538, Royal Design. **3** 'Magnol' round **floor rug**, $399, Freedom. **4** 101 Copenhagen 'Baburu' **bowl** in Birch, $270, Becker Minty. **5** 'Acca Kappa' beech wood **bath brush**, $175, Saison. **6** 'Scallop' **pool towel**, $140, Pete Pareo. **7** 'Tathra' Bianco Carrara marble **dining table** in Light Oak (1250mm), $3290, Trit House. **8** 'Maki' **dining chair**, $695, MCM House. **9** 'Luca' **sofa** in Stone, $5695, Few & Far. **10** 'Baya Hampton' **cushion** in Cumin, $125, Ink & Brayer. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

# GOOD BONES

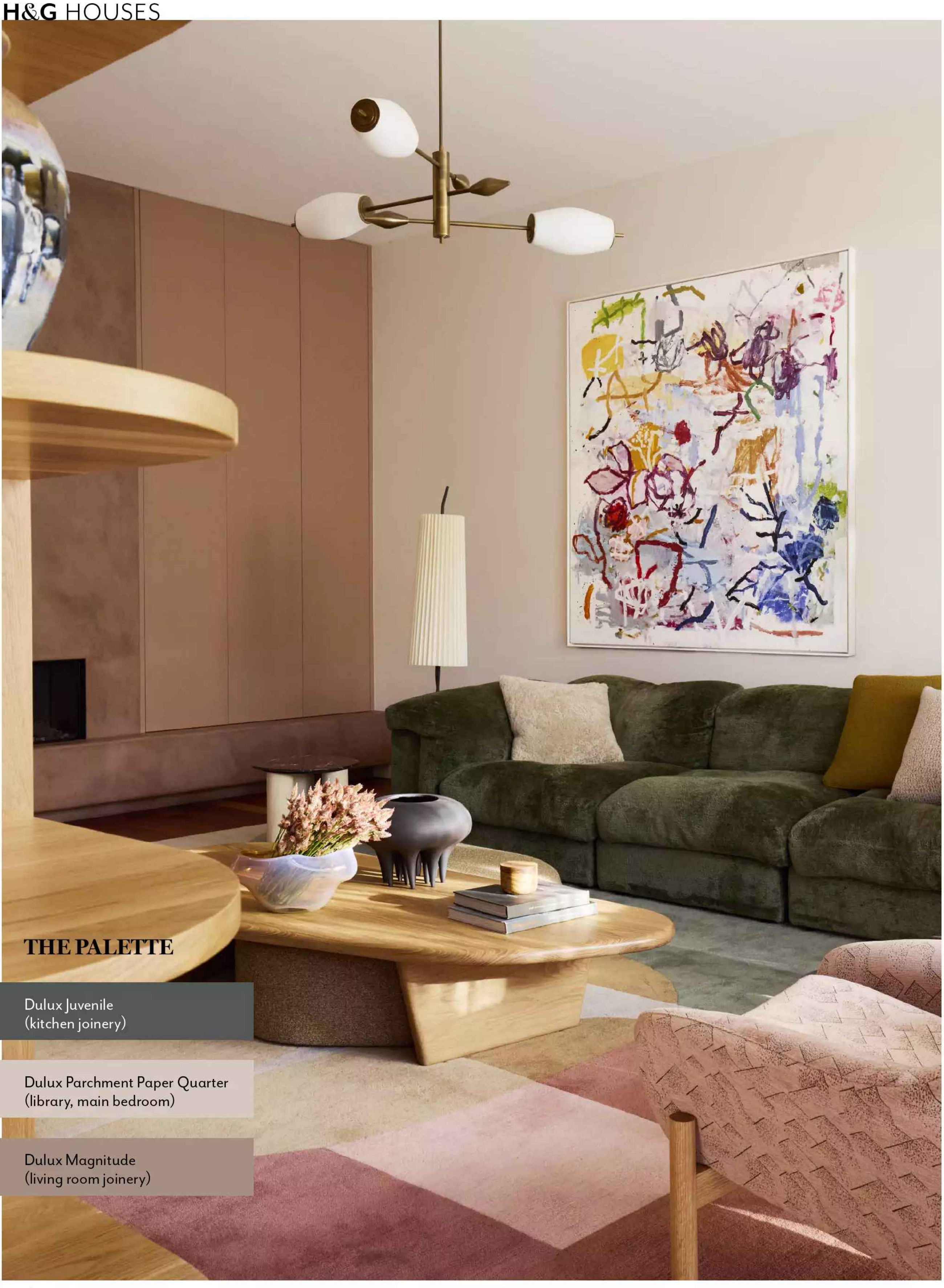
A grand yet charismatic house on Sydney's North Shore called for colour, playfulness and some clever spatial planning.

STORY *Hanna Marton* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



**HALLWAY** Two Greg Natale 'Maja' rugs in custom colours from Designer Rugs line the generous hallway. HC28 'Bold' console, Domo. 101 Copenhagen 'Medusa' vase in Coffee on console, Mecque. **FACADE** *Opposite* Many of the Federation home's materials and furniture were selected to withstand the family's energetic Bernese mountain dog.

**DINING** Having long admired her work, the owners were first in line at a Nicola Moss exhibition to procure the large artwork (centre) *Morning Calls in the Valley*. *Gathered Memories* artwork (on left) by Elizabeth Sullivan. Concentric wall lights, Allied Maker. 'August' dining table, Jardan. FDB Møbler 'J67' oak chairs by Ejvind A Johansson, Open Room. L&L Studio 'Bonbon' chairs (on ends), Domo. 'Odessa' rug in Caraway, Armadillo. Vases on shelves from The DEA Store, Jardan and Mecque.



## THE PALETTE

Dulux Juvenile
(kitchen joinery)

Dulux Parchment Paper Quarter
(library, main bedroom)

Dulux Magnitude
(living room joinery)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

**LIVING** *Above left* Mia Ward of Miwa Design (left) and Josie Simpson of Altus Design Studio (right) are frequent collaborators. *Oreos O Orfeos* artwork by George Raftopoulos. *Above right* 'Molly' coffee table, Jardan. 101 Copenhagen 'Medusa' vase, Mecque. 'Jacobsen Calm' rug in custom colours, The Rug Establishment. *Opposite* The fireplace was wrapped in Mercadier Decoration microcement to match the joinery in Dulux Magnitude. J Adams & Co 'Supernova' three-light pendant, LightCo. Molmic 'Hennessy' sofa in Mokum 'Modernist' from James Dunlop Textiles. 'Fliegenbein' standing lamp, Great Dane. Grazia & Co 'Nikki' armchairs in Kelly Wearstler x Lee Jofa 'Brink paper' fabric. *Sundry For Birds* artwork by Claire Kirkup, Studio Gallery.

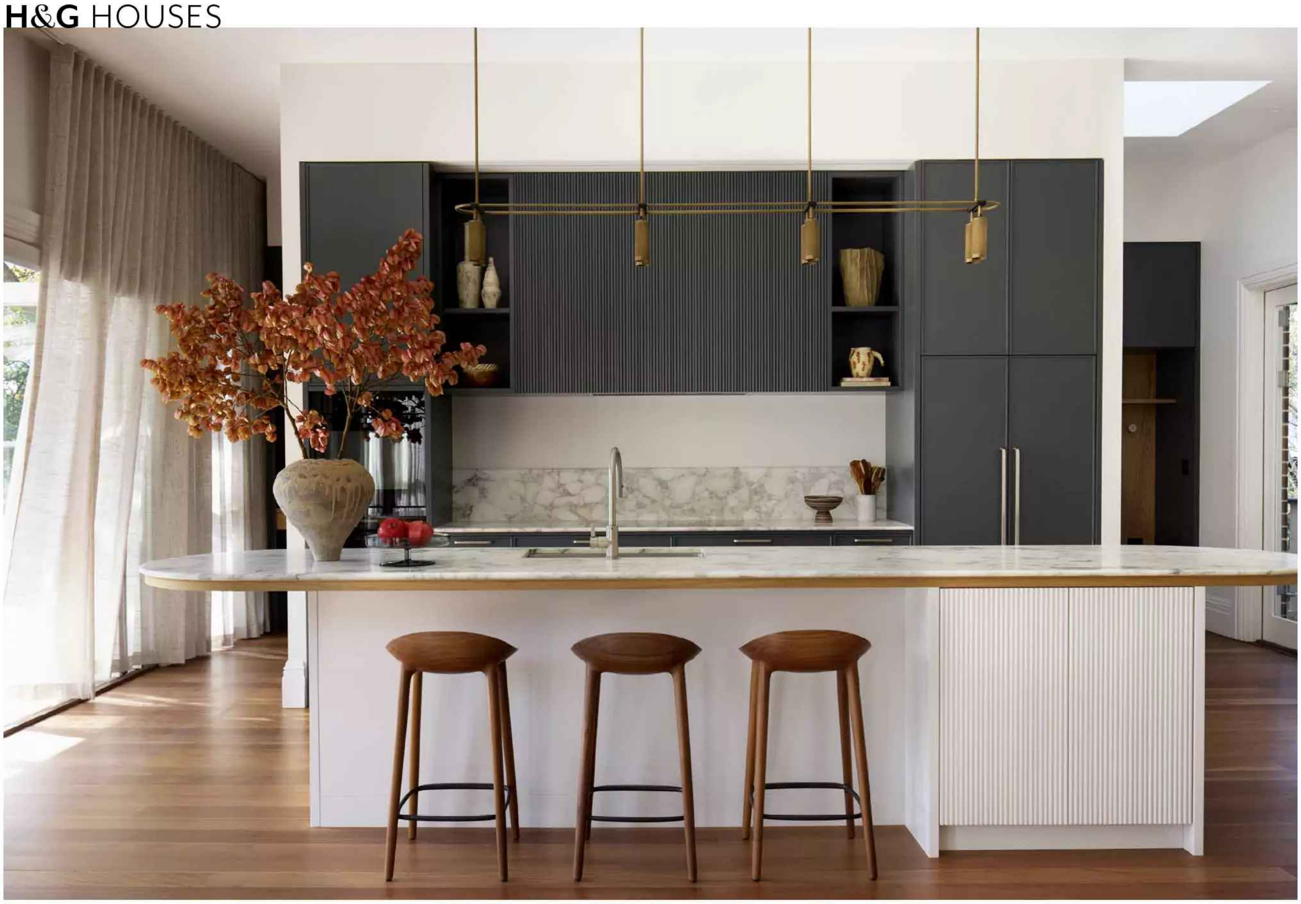
When the new custodians of this six-bedroom Federation home moved back to Sydney after living in Canberra for a few years, they coveted space. As a couple with two young kids, they had become accustomed to stretching out. "We thought, 'How are we ever going to fit back into our teeny, tiny terrace?" says the owner, referring to her old inner-city Sydney abode. "So we looked at the North Shore and found this wonderful house."

Set on a quarter-acre block in a leafy neighbourhood with a sunny, north-facing backyard, 'Karinya' had good bones and heritage features, such as leadlight windows. It would be a heavenly place to raise children. But the owners soon realised that you can have too much of a good thing. The "enormous" house lacked function and warmth. Case in point: a cavernous 16-metre kitchen, living and dining zone that spanned the rear of the ground level. "It was like a great hall, with virtually no storage," recalls the owner. "It didn't feel cosy."

Initially, she engaged her old friend and interior architectural designer Mia Ward, director of Miwa Designs, just to address the lack of cosiness, redesign the kitchen and conjure up some much-needed joinery. Her best-laid plans quickly snowballed. Since the family wanted to stay in the house during the build, and the bathrooms and bedrooms were dated, it made sense to renovate the entire ground floor all at once. The lower and upper levels only required minor cosmetic tweaks.

Mia deftly shuffled the kitchen forward to help fill the space and accommodate a generous butler's pantry behind it. Flanking the butler's pantry is a study nook and a kids' bag-drop station. She also magicked up a partition wall to delineate the living and dining.

"Then, we 'stole' some meterage from the formal living room, which ran down the side of the house, to create a more functional walk-in robe and ensuite for the main bedroom at the front of the home," says Mia. This in turn made the formal living, now dubbed 'the library', a more intimate space for reading, board games and movie nights. ▶



**KITCHEN** Joinery in Dulux Juvenile. Benchtop and splashback in Calacatta Monet marble, Euro Marble. J Adams & Co 'Spot' eight-light pendant, LightCo. Inoda + Sveje 'BAR' stools, Great Dane. Vases and ceramics (on shelves) from The DEA Store and Mecque. 'Etna' vase on island bench by Katarina Wells, Curatorial+Co. *Opposite* 'August' dining table, Jardan. L&L Studio 'Bonbon' dining chair (on end), Domo. FDB Møbler 'J67' oak dining chairs by Ejvind A Johansson, Open Room. Curtains in 'Beech' linen, James Dunlop Textiles.

Karinya is a historic home, but its owners are young and creative. To reimagine the stately yet staid interiors with colour, art and elevated furniture, Mia introduced her clients to Josie Simpson, founder of and design lead at Altus Design Studio. "Josie was wonderful to work with," says the owner. "She really understood the brief – that the house had to be a fun environment, not stuffy or precious." It also needed to be durable enough to cope with the family's cheeky Bernese mountain dog, known to steal swatches during site visits.

To inform the living room palette, Josie drew from the George Raftopoulos artwork *Oreos O Orfeos*, which the owners had already sourced. She selected a Ligne Roset 'Pumpkin' armchair in a purple-blue fabric to complement the piece while "breaking up the rhythm of the green and pink in the space" – referring to the dirty-pink fireplace – with joinery, Grazia & Co armchairs and a verdant Molmic sofa. "You don't want to be too matchy-matchy," explains Josie. A pop of turmeric via an ottoman speaks to the Susie Dureau painting hanging on the microcement fireplace. Tying the scheme together with a bow is the multifaceted 'Jacobsen Calm' rug from The Rug Establishment in custom colours.

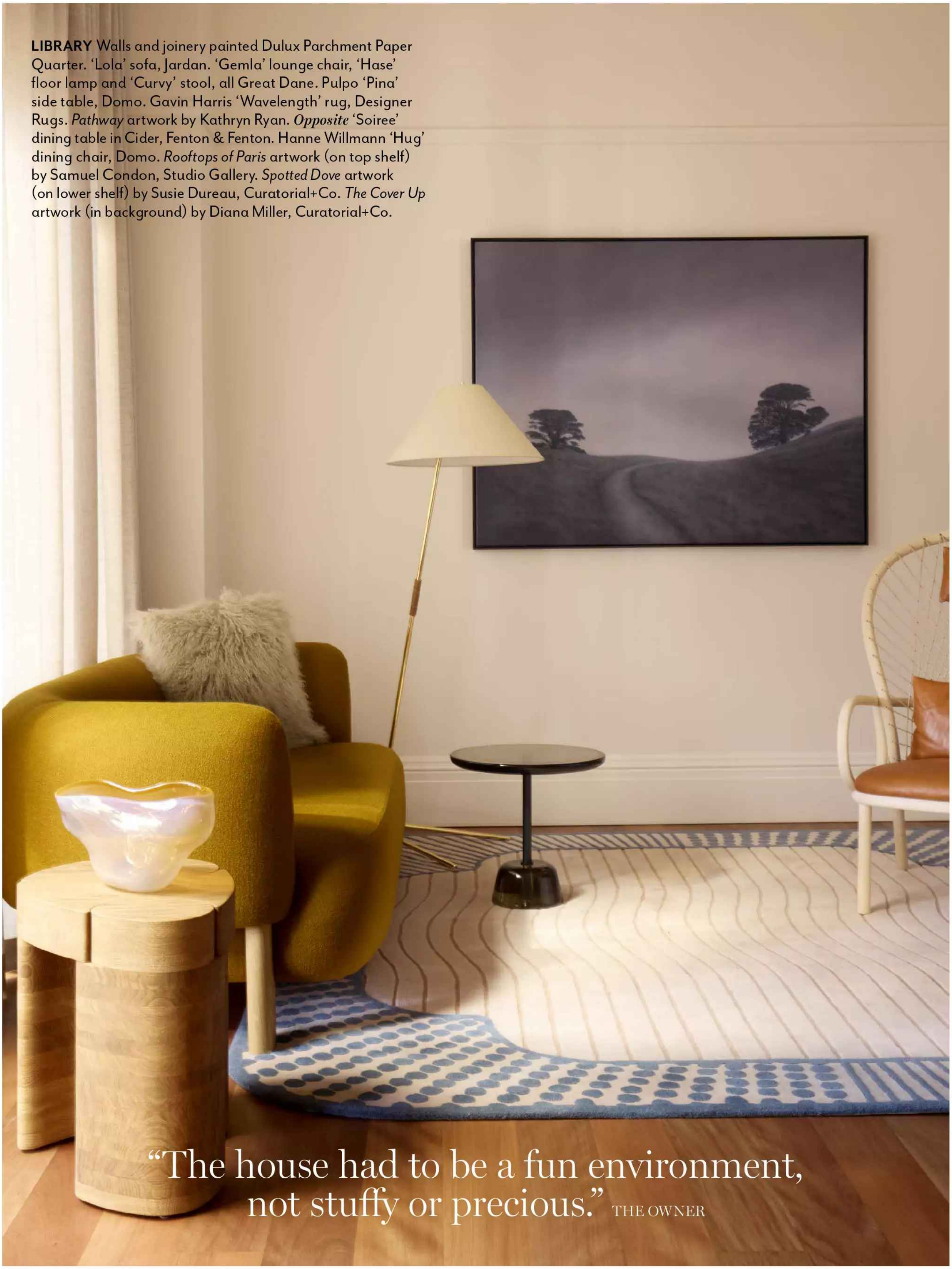
When it came to joinery, furniture and rugs, getting the scale right was paramount, lest the pieces look like doll's house furniture floating in a vacuum. "You can order the biggest possible furniture sizes, but once they're in a large house, they don't look that big," says Josie. "They feel right."

Mia installed arches to punctuate the long hallway, which also required a whopping 16 metres of custom runners. Meanwhile, Josie adorned the foyer wall with Kartell 'Jellies' coat hangers. "The design is based on old-style jelly moulds," she says. "They're almost like playful artworks."

Karinya is an Aboriginal word commonly translated to 'peaceful or happy home'. After a five-month build, this harmonious house absolutely lives up to its name. "It feels like a welcoming, fun and nurturing space for our family," says the owner. ▶

***Miwa Design:*** *miwa.com.au.*
***Altus Design Studio:*** *altusdesignstudio.com.au.*
***Revolution Building & Construction:*** *revolutionbc.com.au.*

**THIS IS THE LIFE**
Entertaining is a cinch at Karinya, which sports a pool, multiple terraces and a rumpus room. "Now we have the space to have family and friends over," says the owner. "We previously didn't even have enough furniture in the house to seat everyone!" Sundays, however, are typically rest days. "School weeks and kids' sport are hectic. We love to relax and the house is a real sanctuary."

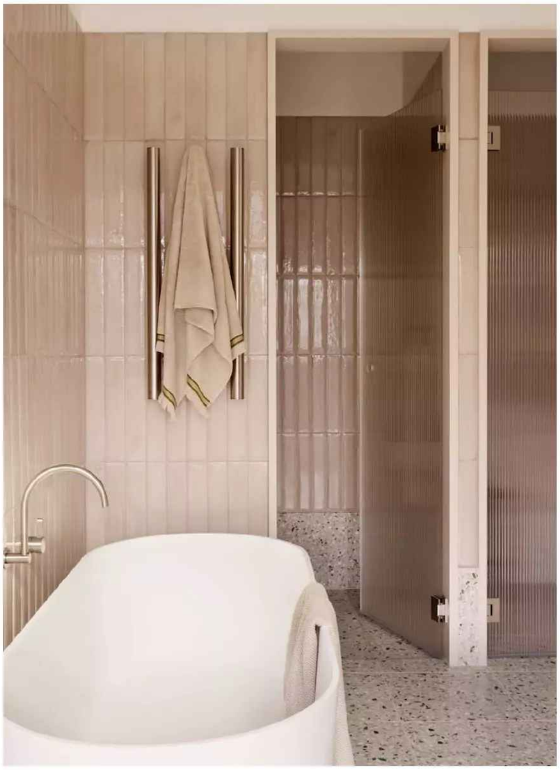


**LIBRARY** Walls and joinery painted Dulux Parchment Paper Quarter. 'Lola' sofa, Jardan. 'Gemla' lounge chair, 'Hase' floor lamp and 'Curvy' stool, all Great Dane. Pulpo 'Pina' side table, Domo. Gavin Harris 'Wavelength' rug, Designer Rugs. *Pathway* artwork by Kathryn Ryan. ***Opposite*** 'Soiree' dining table in Cider, Fenton & Fenton. Hanne Willmann 'Hug' dining chair, Domo. *Rooftops of Paris* artwork (on top shelf) by Samuel Condon, Studio Gallery. *Spotted Dove* artwork (on lower shelf) by Susie Dureau, Curatorial+Co. *The Cover Up* artwork (in background) by Diana Miller, Curatorial+Co.

> "The house had to be a fun environment, not stuffy or precious." THE OWNER

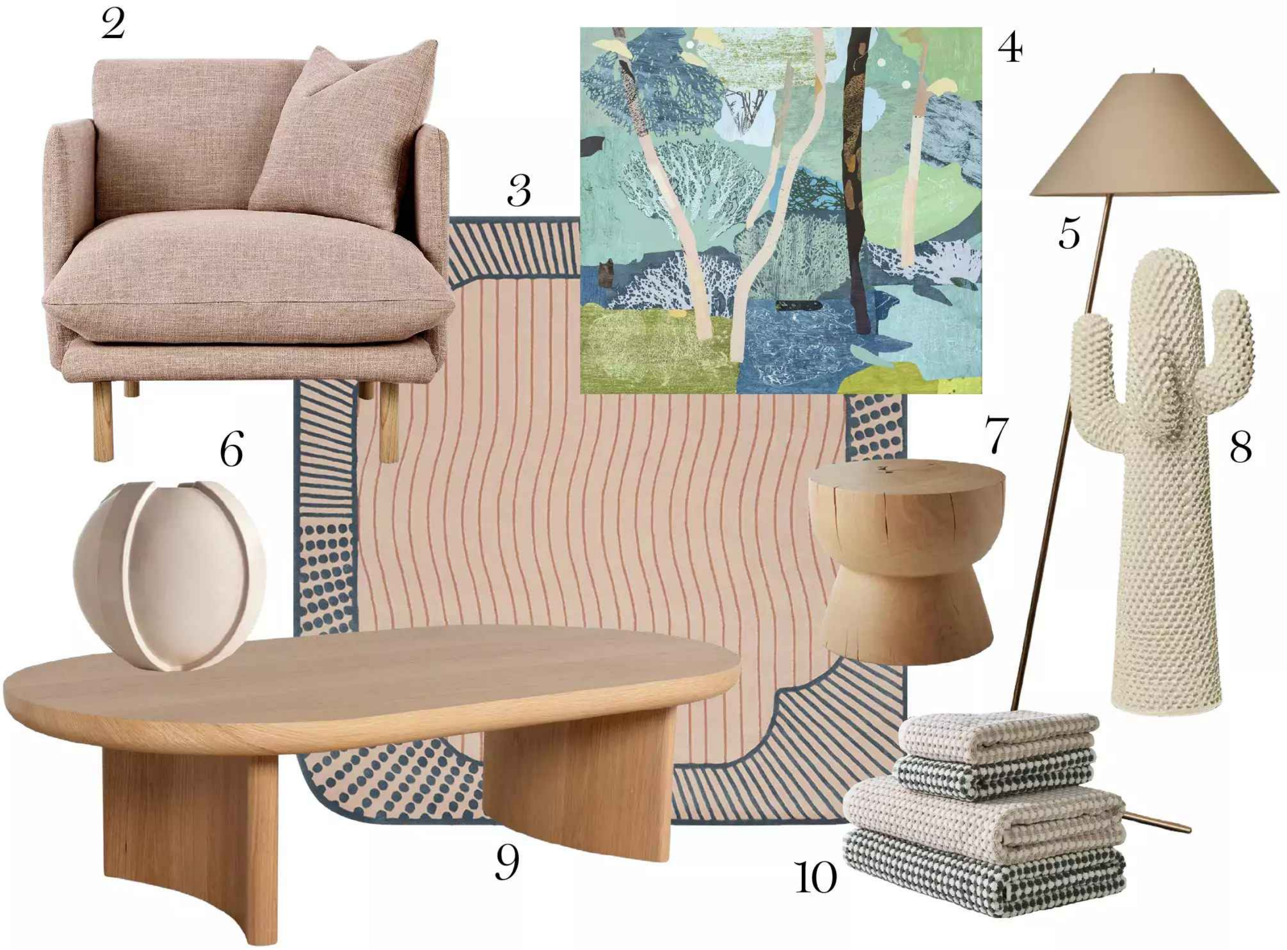
Australian ABSTRACT
THE TRAVEL BOOK

**WARDROBE** *Top left* Joinery in Lamitak Nougat. L&L Studio 'Bonbon' dining chair, Domo. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Top right* Walls painted in Dulux Parchment Paper Quarter. Bedhead in Casamance 'Mola 4828' fabric, Zepel Fabrics. Curtains in Mokum 'Adobe' fabric in Linen, James Dunlop Textiles. *To Surrender* artwork by Chloe Caday, Curatorial+Co. Linen and quilt cover, Cultiver. 'Terra 0' long articulating wall light, Marz Designs. Cascata carpet, Prestige Carpets. **ENSUITE** *Bottom left and right* 'Bellario' wall tiles in Sand Gloss, Surface Gallery. Vanity in Dulux Buff It Quarter. Benchtop in 'Botticino' marble, Euro Marble. 'Mari' bath towel, Jardan. 'Momentti' terrazzo floor and skirting in Patino, Onsite Supply + Design.



# THE SOURCE

*Heritage hints and contemporary flourishes build character.*



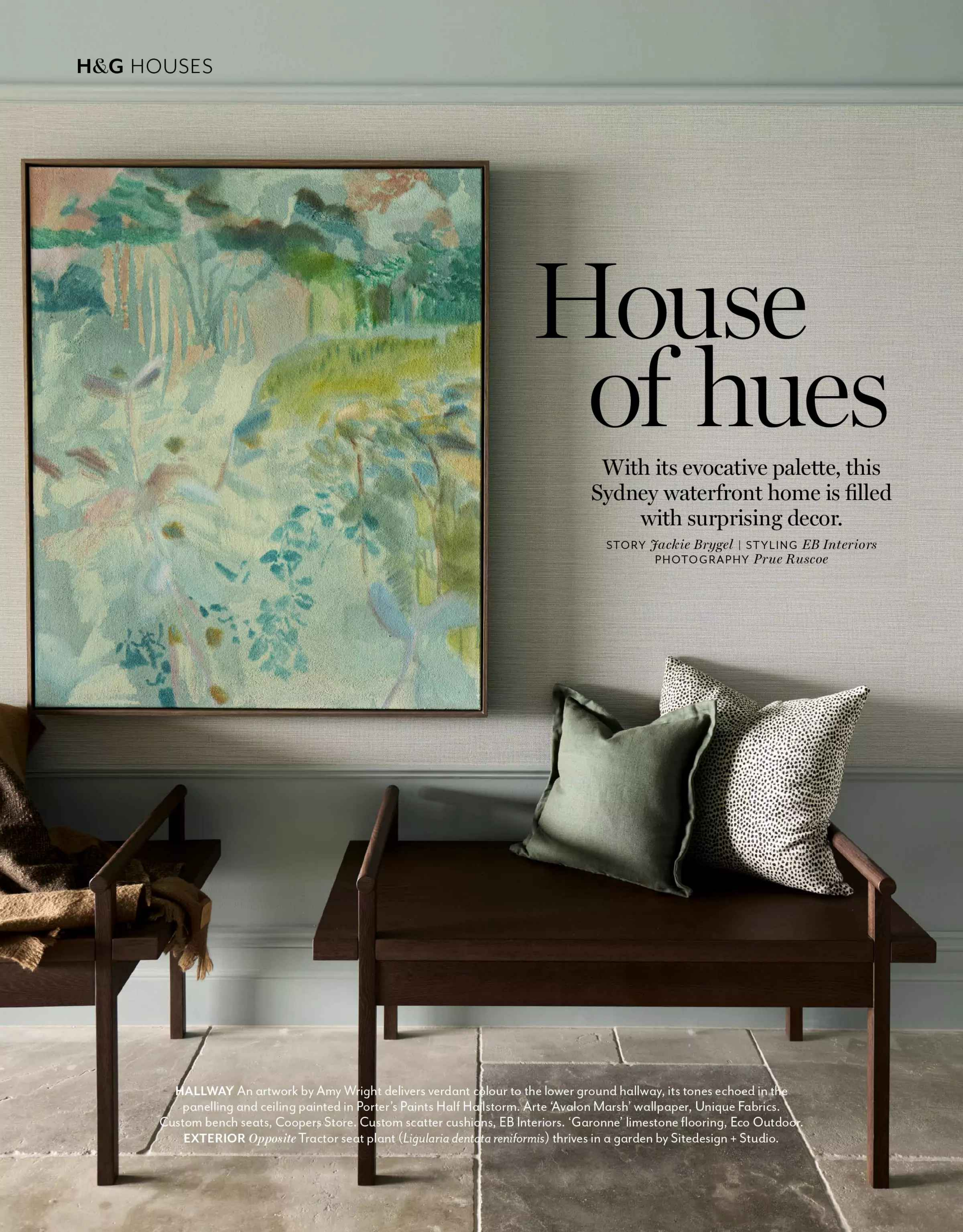
**1** AudoCopenhagen 'Dancing' **pendant light** in Off-White, $1599, Designstuff. **2** 'Zephyr' **armchair** in Byron Biscuit, $1699, Ellison Studios. **3** 'Wavelength' **rug** (240x240cm), $5190, Designer Rugs. **4** *In the gardens* **artwork** by Nicola Moss, POA, Nicola Moss. **5** 'Hase' **floor lamp**, $7995, Great Dane. **6** Louise Roe 'Vinci 01' ceramic **vase** in Ivory, $571, Net-A-Porter. **7** 'Eggcup' **side table**, $1635, Mark Tuckey. **8** Gufram 'Another White Cactus' **sculpture**, $10,705, Living Edge. **9** 'Maxim' **coffee table** in Natural veneer, $800, Interior Secrets. **10** Australian House & Garden bamboo textured **towels** in Shrub and in Moonbeam, $20 each/hand towel, $35 each/bath towel, Myer. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

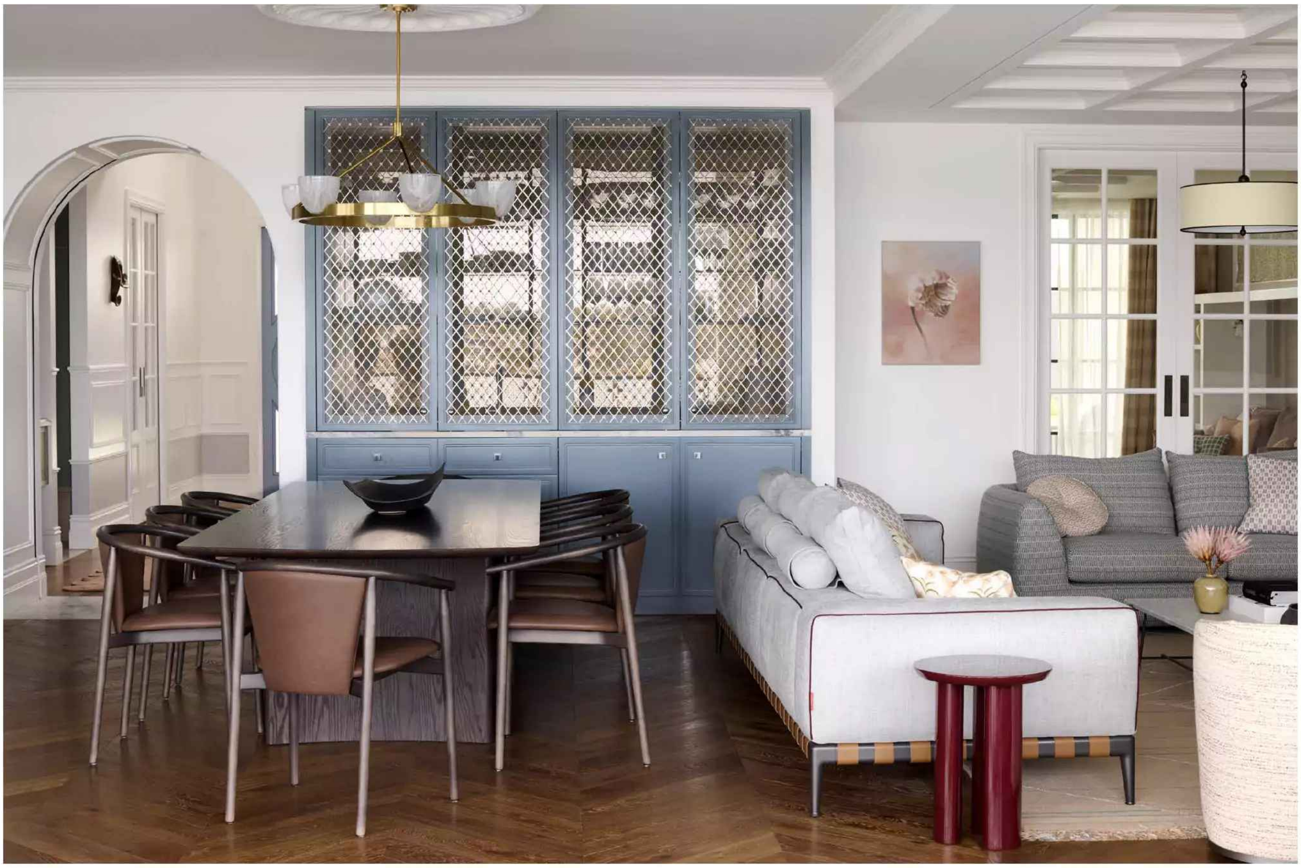
# House of hues

With its evocative palette, this Sydney waterfront home is filled with surprising decor.

STORY *Jackie Brygel* | STYLING *EB Interiors*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



**HALLWAY** An artwork by Amy Wright delivers verdant colour to the lower ground hallway, its tones echoed in the panelling and ceiling painted in Porter's Paints Half Hailstorm. Arte 'Avalon Marsh' wallpaper, Unique Fabrics. Custom bench seats, Coopers Store. Custom scatter cushions, EB Interiors. 'Garonne' limestone flooring, Eco Outdoor. **EXTERIOR** *Opposite* Tractor seat plant (*Ligularia dentata reniformis*) thrives in a garden by Sitedesign + Studio.



Less, it can surely be agreed, is not always more. And while it may require creativity and courage, the expressive use of colour, pattern and texture in a home can yield a truly joyful result. In this riverside Sydney house, the magic of a painterly palette has been brought to life by interior design practice EB Interiors. Across three distinctive levels, each space is enriched by a nuanced medley of hues, shapes and materials.

For the homeowner Chantal, there was never any doubt that the forever house she would share with her husband Peter and three young daughters would pay homage to a lifelong love of ornamental decor. "You could say that I'm probably not the biggest fan of minimalism," Chantal concedes, smiling. "I do love a lot of colour, but I wanted it incorporated in a way that would give the house a very classic, timeless feel."

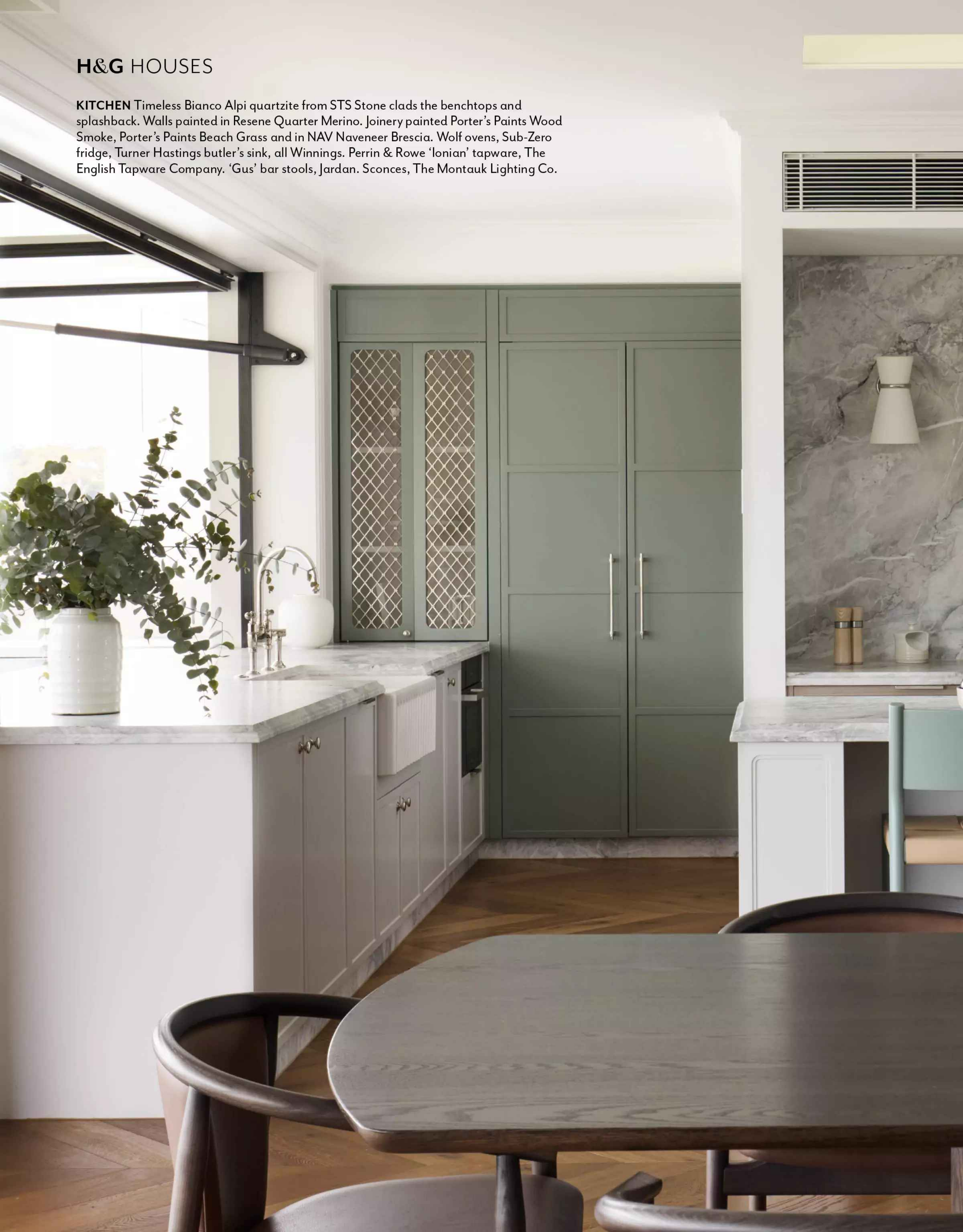
Happily, teaming with interior designer Emma Buchan and her team proved an inspired match for all concerned. "There was a wonderful connection with Chantal and Peter from the beginning," says Emma, founding director of EB Interiors. "Chantal had a very clear direction of what she wanted: classic East Coast American style with herringbone floors, panelled walls and ceilings, as well as lots of colour. She also wanted an Australian sensibility to the home, with a strong indoor-outdoor connection to make the most of the beautiful outlook."

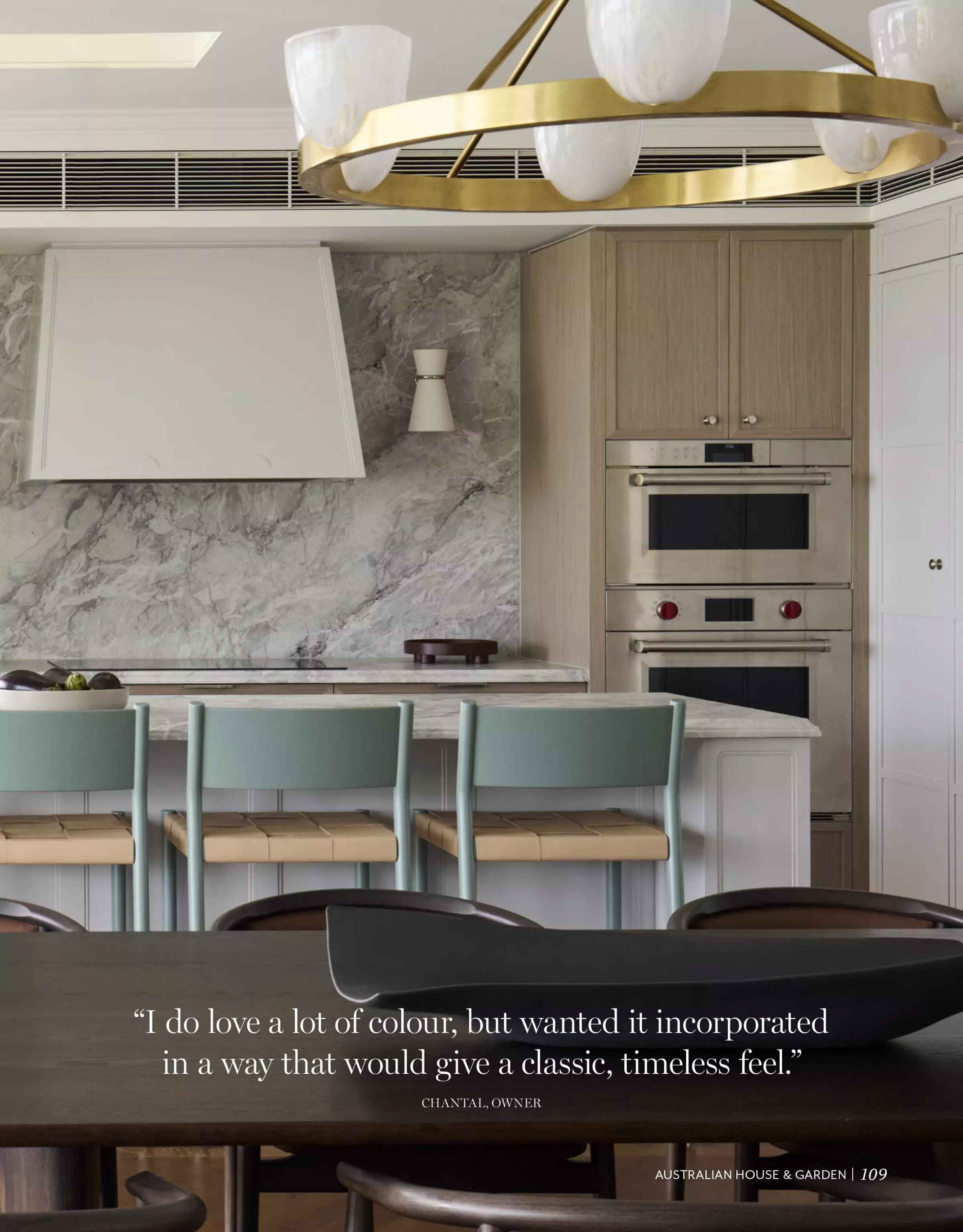
Perched above a river inlet on an elevated 1057 square-metre block in the city's south, the site is indeed blessed with panoramic views of the water. "The house is at the furthermost point of the inlet. When you walk through the front gate, it feels like a little piece of heaven," says Emma.

The original three-level house, which had been in the family for decades, was showing its age from a functional and aesthetic perspective. The time had come for an almost entirely new build of the main house under the guidance of EB Interiors, together with Innovate Architects and Lifestyle Building Design. A small street-facing building with a garage, kitchenette, bathroom and compact living space was to be retained and given a facelift, while the garden would be reimagined by Sitedesign + Studios and a new pool installed by Cronulla Pools. ▶

**DINING/LIVING** Joinery painted Porter's Paints Hamptons Blue with mesh from The English Tapware Company. Chandelier, Bloomingdales. Kett table and armchairs, Cosh Living. 'Chloe' sofa, and Flexform 'Gregory' sofa, both Fanuli. &Tradition side table, Cult. Artwork by Leanne Thomas, Art2Muse. **HALLWAY** *Opposite* Light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Front door painted in Porter's Paints Cadet Blue. Walls painted Resene Quarter Merino and Porter's Paints Wood Smoke. Step in Breccia Capria marble, CDK Stone. Arched door, Cityscape Steel. Flooring, Woodcut. Rug, The Rug Establishment.

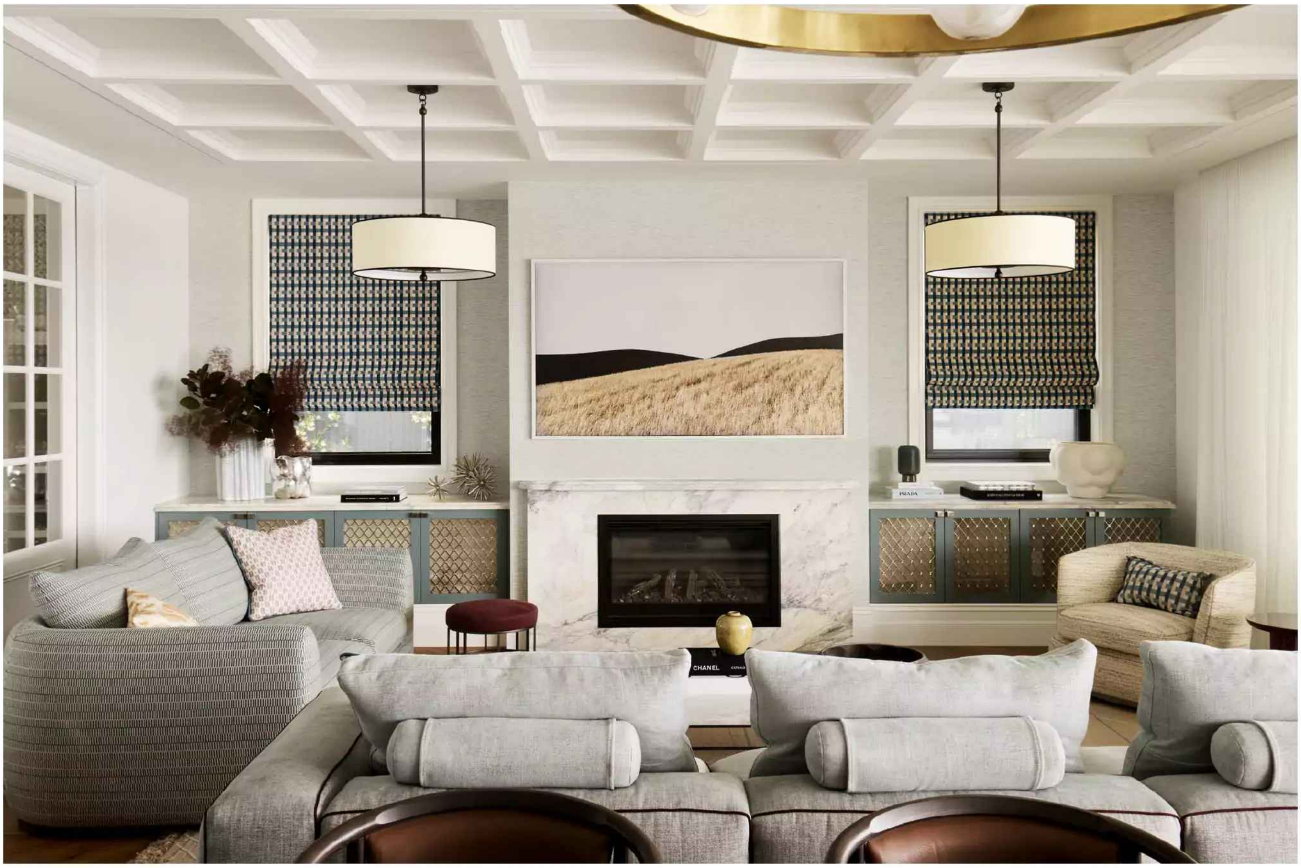
**KITCHEN** Timeless Bianco Alpi quartzite from STS Stone clads the benchtops and splashback. Walls painted in Resene Quarter Merino. Joinery painted Porter's Paints Wood Smoke, Porter's Paints Beach Grass and in NAV Naveneer Brescia. Wolf ovens, Sub-Zero fridge, Turner Hastings butler's sink, all Winnings. Perrin & Rowe 'Ionian' tapware, The English Tapware Company. 'Gus' bar stools, Jardan. Sconces, The Montauk Lighting Co.





> “I do love a lot of colour, but wanted it incorporated in a way that would give a classic, timeless feel.”

CHANTAL, OWNER



"We started working on the project in late 2019, around the same time as the architect," says Emma. "We were able to help with the exterior finishes, and rode the journey with everyone of getting it through council. Then we started on the inside."

Central to the interior brief was the desire to create a specific personality for each room based on differing shades and materials. "As a company, we all enjoy working with colour," says Emma. "We see the benefits, knowing how it can affect your mood. While people can be a bit scared of colour and fear they may get tired of it, they don't need to be. It was really enjoyable having a client who was open to that."

The result is exactly as intended. Inviting but airy; there are spaces for coming together and for seclusion, each telling a cohesive yet distinctive story through textiles, wall treatments and, of course, life-affirming colour.

Some domains cast the spotlight on a singular hue. On the lower ground, there's the moody petrol-blue bar, while vivid Hamptons-blue cabinetry on the middle level in the living and dining sets a timeless, tranquil tone. On the upper level, housing the bedrooms, standout spaces are the couple's garnet walk-in wardrobe and the blush-pink family bathroom.

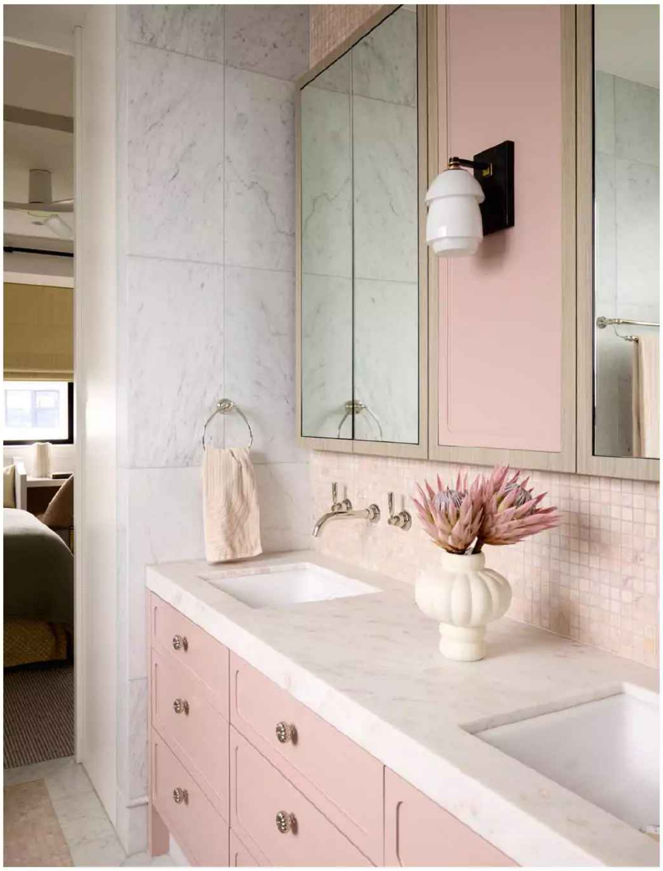
Delightfully, too, there are rooms that more coyly reveal their personality through a deft layering of complementary shades, further demonstrating that this is a home in which originality has been at play. Even the smallest spaces, such as the petite bathroom in the cabana with its whimsical botanical wall tiles, benefit from a jubilant application of colour and pattern.

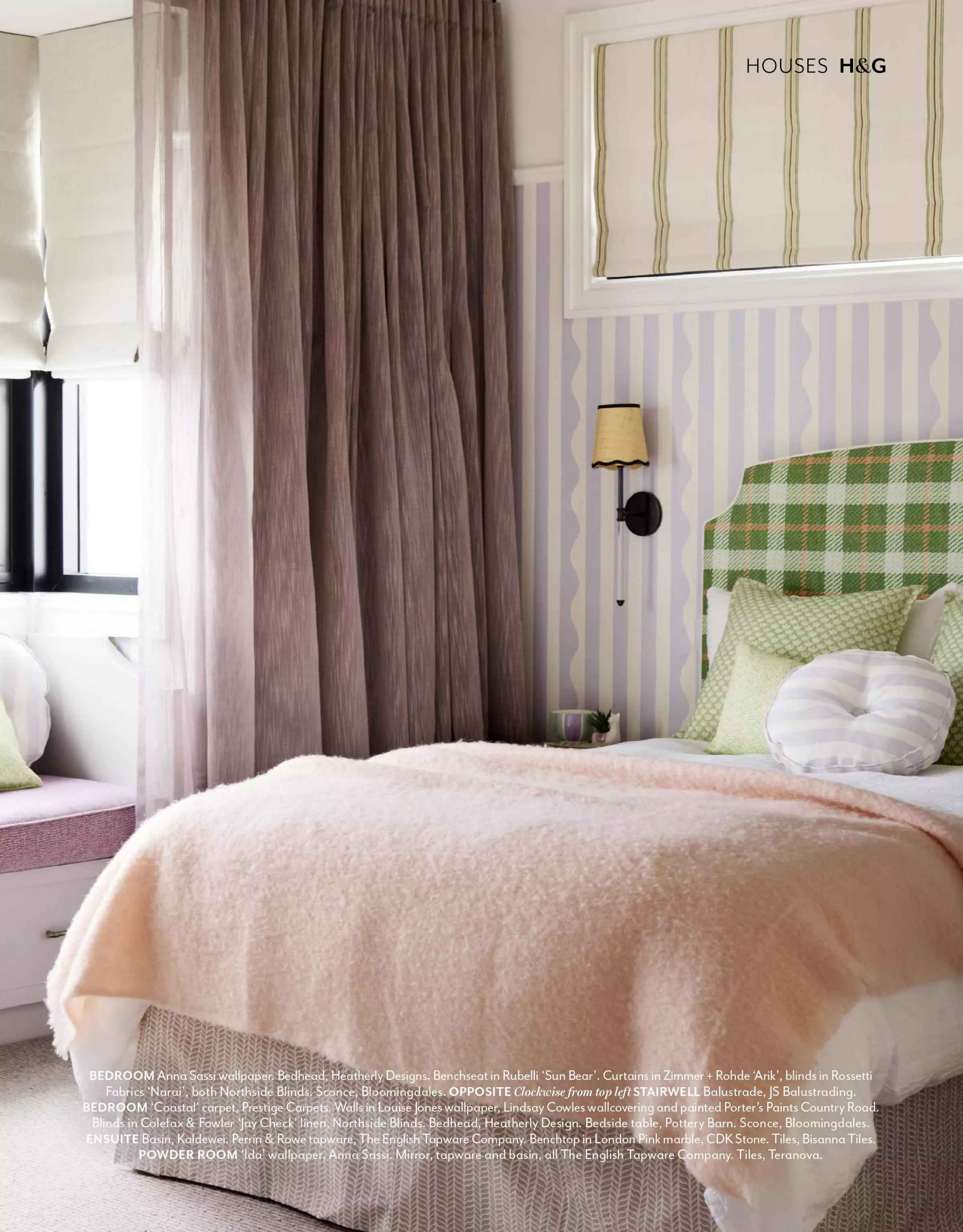
"We always feel a little bit sad when any job finishes, but this project was really a hard one to part with. We just loved working on it so much," says Emma.

For Chantal, the design team's expertise and experience gave her the confidence to take a walk on the more exuberant side. A journey that continues to bring the family daily joy. "We love every corner of this house," says Chantal, adding, "Construction manager Brad Davis oversaw every detail of the build as if it was his own house. It's now very much a part of us all." ▶

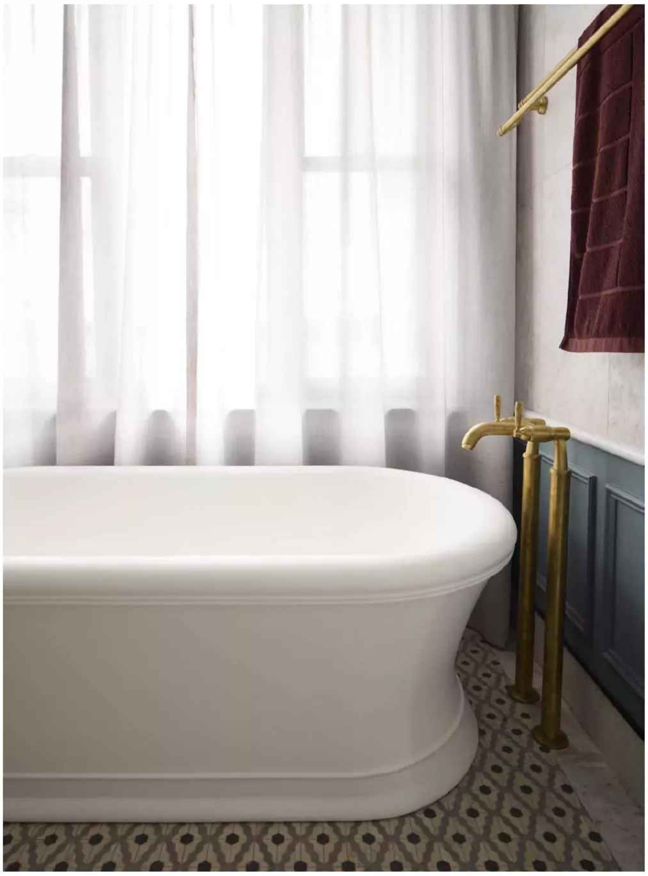
***EB Interiors:** ebinteriors.com.au. **Lifestyle Building Design:** lifestylebuildingdesign.com.au. **Innovate Architects:** innovate.com.au.*

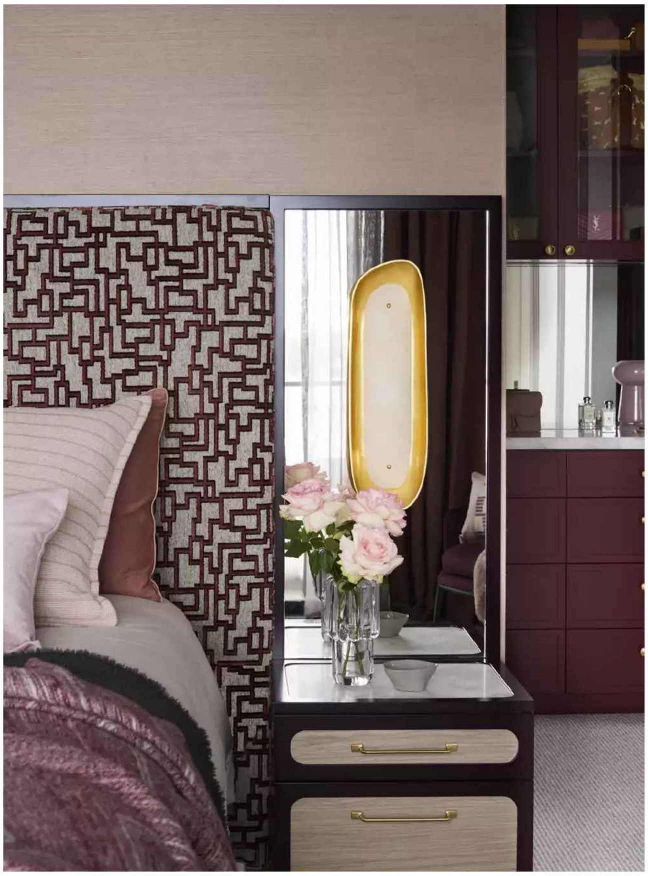
**LIVING** Joinery painted Porter's Paints Hamptons Blue with mesh from The English Tapware Company. Benchtops in Breccia Capria marble from CDK Stone. Northside Blinds Roman blinds in 'Anni Check' fabric, Imogen Heath. Chandelier, Bloomingdales. 'Chloe' sofa, and Flexform 'Gregory' sofa, both Fanuli. Cushions, EB Interiors. &Tradition side table, Cult. Armchair, Cosh Living. **RUMPUS ROOM** *Opposite* Sofa, Jardan. Ottoman, Fanuli. Curtains in Nine Muses Textiles 'Huit' linen and Unique Fabrics 'Dream' fabric in Snow, Northside Blinds. Fermob outdoor table, Trit House. 'Glaze' rug, Tsar Carpets.

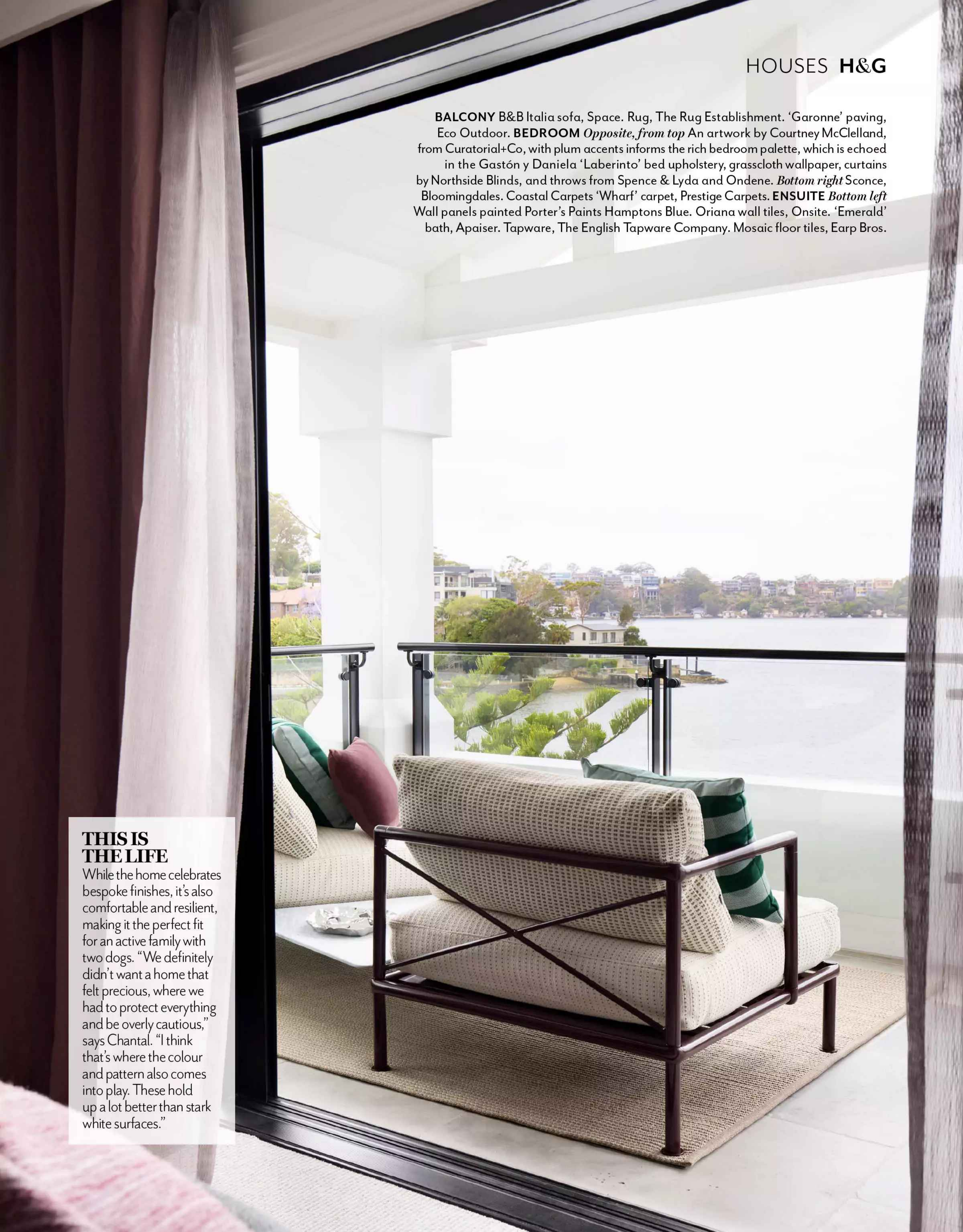




**BEDROOM** Anna Sassi wallpaper. Bedhead, Heatherly Designs. Benchseat in Rubelli 'Sun Bear'. Curtains in Zimmer + Rohde 'Arik', blinds in Rossetti Fabrics 'Narai', both Northside Blinds. Sconce, Bloomingdales. **OPPOSITE** *Clockwise from top left* **STAIRWELL** Balustrade, JS Balustrading. **BEDROOM** 'Coastal' carpet, Prestige Carpets. Walls in Louise Jones wallpaper, Lindsay Cowles wallcovering and painted Porter's Paints Country Road. Blinds in Colefax & Fowler 'Jay Check' linen, Northside Blinds. Bedhead, Heatherly Design. Bedside table, Pottery Barn. Sconce, Bloomingdales. **ENSUITE** Basin, Kaldewei. Perrin & Rowe tapware, The English Tapware Company. Benchtop in London Pink marble, CDK Stone. Tiles, Bisanna Tiles. **POWDER ROOM** 'Ida' wallpaper, Anna Sassi. Mirror, tapware and basin, all The English Tapware Company. Tiles, Teranova.







**BALCONY** B&B Italia sofa, Space. Rug, The Rug Establishment. 'Garonne' paving, Eco Outdoor. **BEDROOM** *Opposite, from top* An artwork by Courtney McClelland, from Curatorial+Co, with plum accents informs the rich bedroom palette, which is echoed in the Gastón y Daniela 'Laberinto' bed upholstery, grasscloth wallpaper, curtains by Northside Blinds, and throws from Spence & Lyda and Ondene. *Bottom right* Sconce, Bloomingdales. Coastal Carpets 'Wharf' carpet, Prestige Carpets. **ENSUITE** *Bottom left* Wall panels painted Porter's Paints Hamptons Blue. Oriana wall tiles, Onsite. 'Emerald' bath, Apaiser. Tapware, The English Tapware Company. Mosaic floor tiles, Earp Bros.

## THIS IS THE LIFE

While the home celebrates bespoke finishes, it's also comfortable and resilient, making it the perfect fit for an active family with two dogs. "We definitely didn't want a home that felt precious, where we had to protect everything and be overly cautious," says Chantal. "I think that's where the colour and pattern also comes into play. These hold up a lot better than stark white surfaces."

> “The owner wanted to make the most of the beautiful setting and outlook.”

EMMA BUCHAN, INTERIOR DESIGNER

**THE PALETTE**

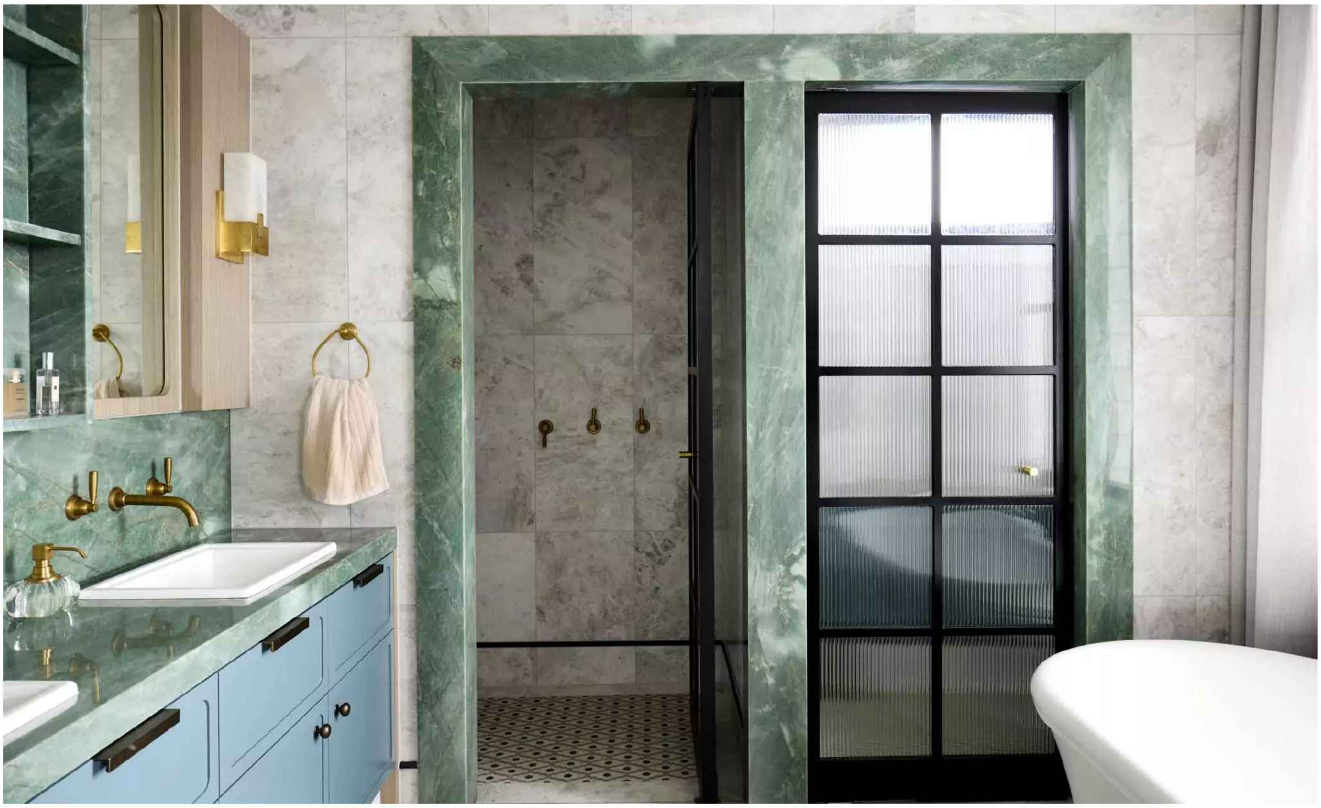
Porter’s Paints Beach Grass (kitchen joinery)

Porter’s Paints Cadet Blue (front door)

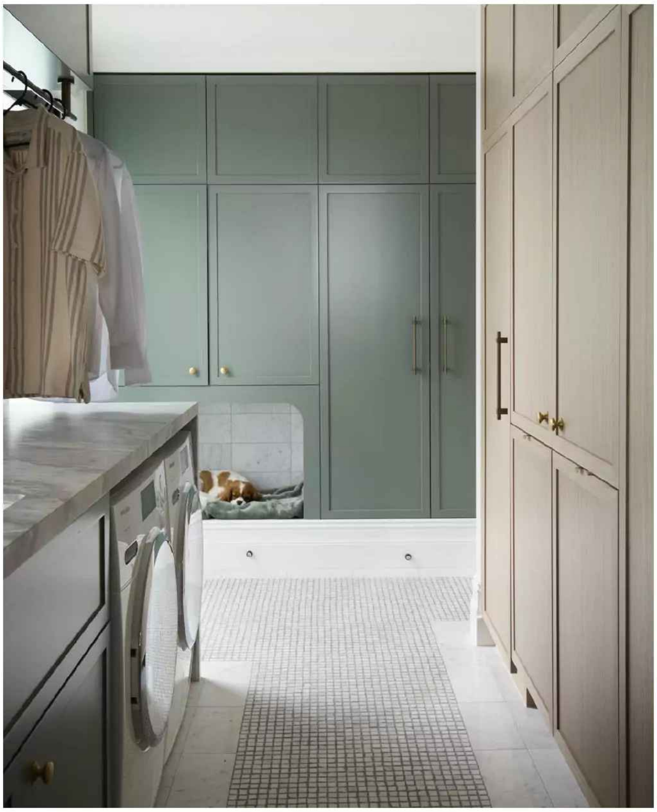
Resene Coral Tree (cabana vanity)

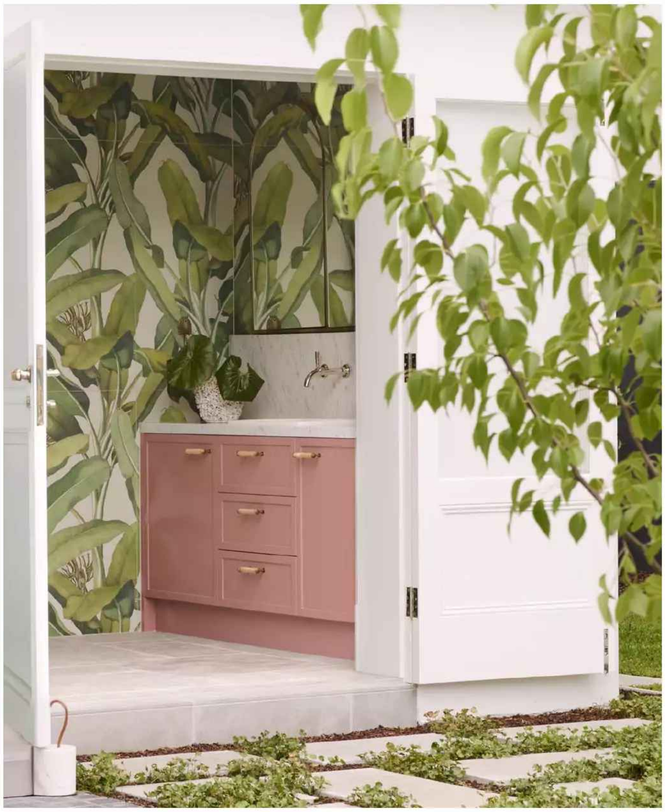
**GROUND FLOOR BALCONY** Tile border in tumbled Nero Marquina marble, Bisanna Tiles. Tribù 'Mood' armchairs and Kett 'Apollo' chairs, Cosh Living. B&B Italia 'Borea' side table, Space. 'Garonne' paving, Eco Outdoor.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



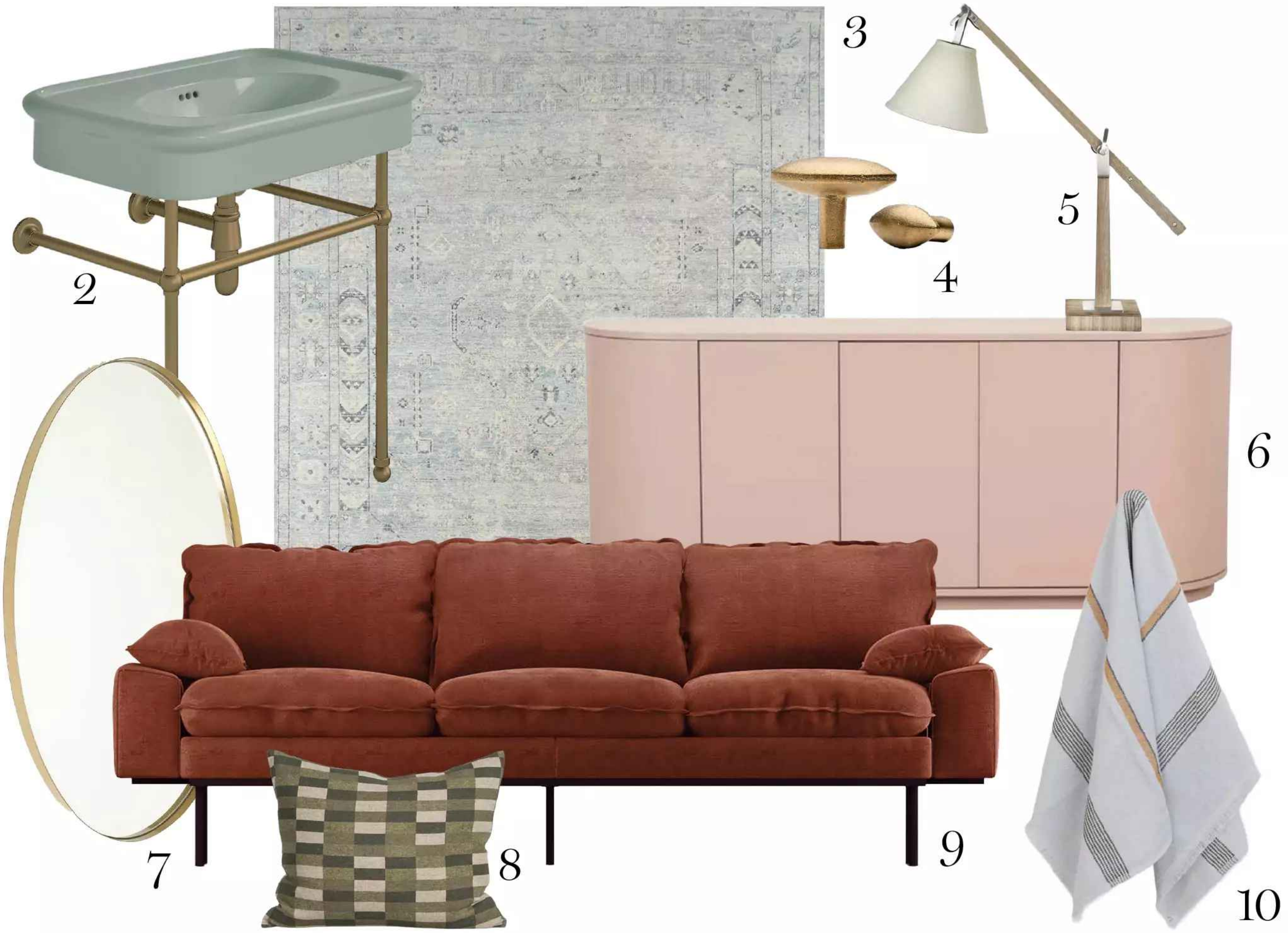
**BATHROOM** *Above* Vanity painted Porter's Paints Hamptons Blue. Oriana wall tiles, Onsite. 'Emerald' bath, Apaiser. Tapware, The English Tapware Company. Mosaic floor tiles, Earp Bros. **CABANA BATHROOM** *Below right* Wall tiles, Di Lorenzo. Vanity painted Resene Coral Tree. Benchtop in Bianca Carrara marble. Tapware, The English Tapware Company. Drawer pulls, Coastal Vintage. 'Garonne' floor tiles, Eco Outdoor. **LAUNDRY** *Below left* Joinery painted Porter's Paints Beach Grass and in NAV Naveneer Brescia. Armac Martin handles, The English Tapware Company. Benchtop in Bianco Alpi stone, STS Stone. Miele appliances, Winnings. Floor in Bianco Carrara marble tiles and mosaics, Bisanna Tiles.





# THE SOURCE

*Mix classic shapes with powdery pastels for timeless style.*



**1** Aerin 'Corentin' **objet**, $2255, Palmer & Penn. **2** The Water Monopoly 'Rockwell' **basin** on stand in Willow Green, from $3100, The English Tapware Company. **3** 'Heriz' **rug** in Blue Beige (300x240cm), $9450, Hali. **4** 'Cast Almond' **knobs** in Natural Brass, from $39, Lo&Co. **5** 'Sonora' **table lamp** in Oak, $729, Luxe Lighting. **6** Oberon 'Crescent' **buffet** (1800mm) in Dusk, $4980, GlobeWest. **7** Oval **mirror** in Brass, $1385, Gramercy Home. **8** 'Hugo' **cushion** in Forest, $170, Baya Living. **9** 'Retro' three-seater **sofa** in Royal Velvet Magnolia, $5895, House of Orange. **10** 'Mist' **hand towel**, $45, Oliver Thom. **H&G**

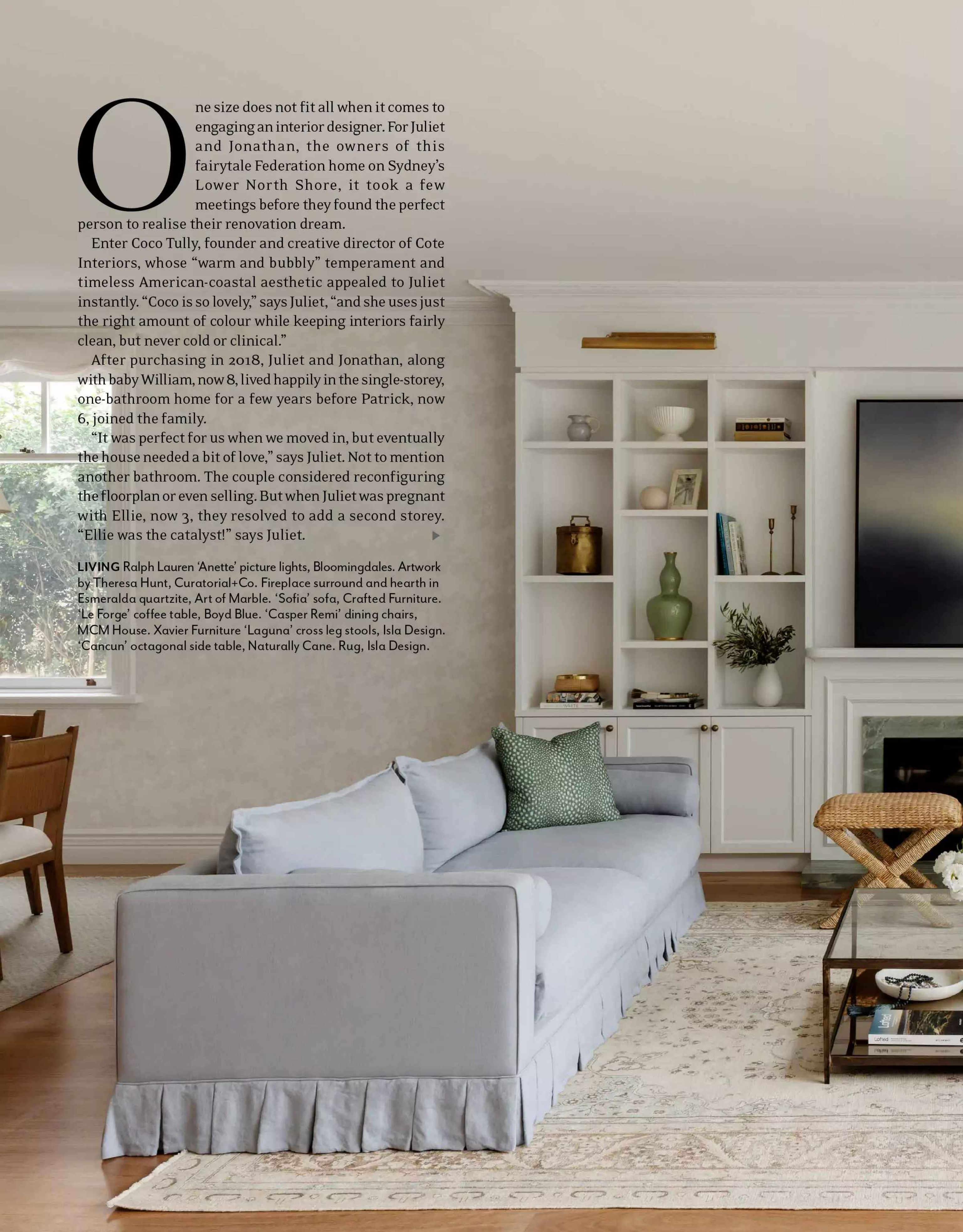
Produced by Marissa Foye.

# CLASSIC CHARMER

Cote Interiors infused a handsome Federation house with a relaxed atmosphere and much-needed storage for a growing family of five.

STORY *Hanna Marton* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Nat Spada*

**LIVING** Fireplace surround and hearth in Esmeralda quartzite, Art of Marble. Artwork by Theresa Hunt, Curatorial+Co. **EXTERIOR** *Opposite* Facade painted Porter's Paints Bone. Kitts armchairs and drum stool, all Isla Design.



One size does not fit all when it comes to engaging an interior designer. For Juliet and Jonathan, the owners of this fairytale Federation home on Sydney's Lower North Shore, it took a few meetings before they found the perfect person to realise their renovation dream.

Enter Coco Tully, founder and creative director of Cote Interiors, whose "warm and bubbly" temperament and timeless American-coastal aesthetic appealed to Juliet instantly. "Coco is so lovely," says Juliet, "and she uses just the right amount of colour while keeping interiors fairly clean, but never cold or clinical."

After purchasing in 2018, Juliet and Jonathan, along with baby William, now 8, lived happily in the single-storey, one-bathroom home for a few years before Patrick, now 6, joined the family.

"It was perfect for us when we moved in, but eventually the house needed a bit of love," says Juliet. Not to mention another bathroom. The couple considered reconfiguring the floorplan or even selling. But when Juliet was pregnant with Ellie, now 3, they resolved to add a second storey. "Ellie was the catalyst!" says Juliet. ▶

**LIVING** Ralph Lauren 'Anette' picture lights, Bloomingdales. Artwork by Theresa Hunt, Curatorial+Co. Fireplace surround and hearth in Esmeralda quartzite, Art of Marble. 'Sofia' sofa, Crafted Furniture. 'Le Forge' coffee table, Boyd Blue. 'Casper Remi' dining chairs, MCM House. Xavier Furniture 'Laguna' cross leg stools, Isla Design. 'Cancun' octagonal side table, Naturally Cane. Rug, Isla Design.

> "A home should support you and make your life easier." COCO TULLY, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Fast-forward to 2023 and the build was underway when Coco came on board. Realising architectural plans by Bennett Murada, the builders had replaced the ground-floor study with a staircase and crafted a first-level addition featuring a main bedroom suite, balcony, new study, bathroom and bedroom.

Having renovated an Eastern Suburbs terrace previously, Juliet was brimming with ideas when she and Coco started to refine the lighting, joinery, finishes, paint colours and furniture selections. “It was very collaborative,” says Coco. “Juliet had a clear vision and beautiful taste, but as busy working parents of three, she and Jonathan needed a little support. We came in to help bring that dream to life.”

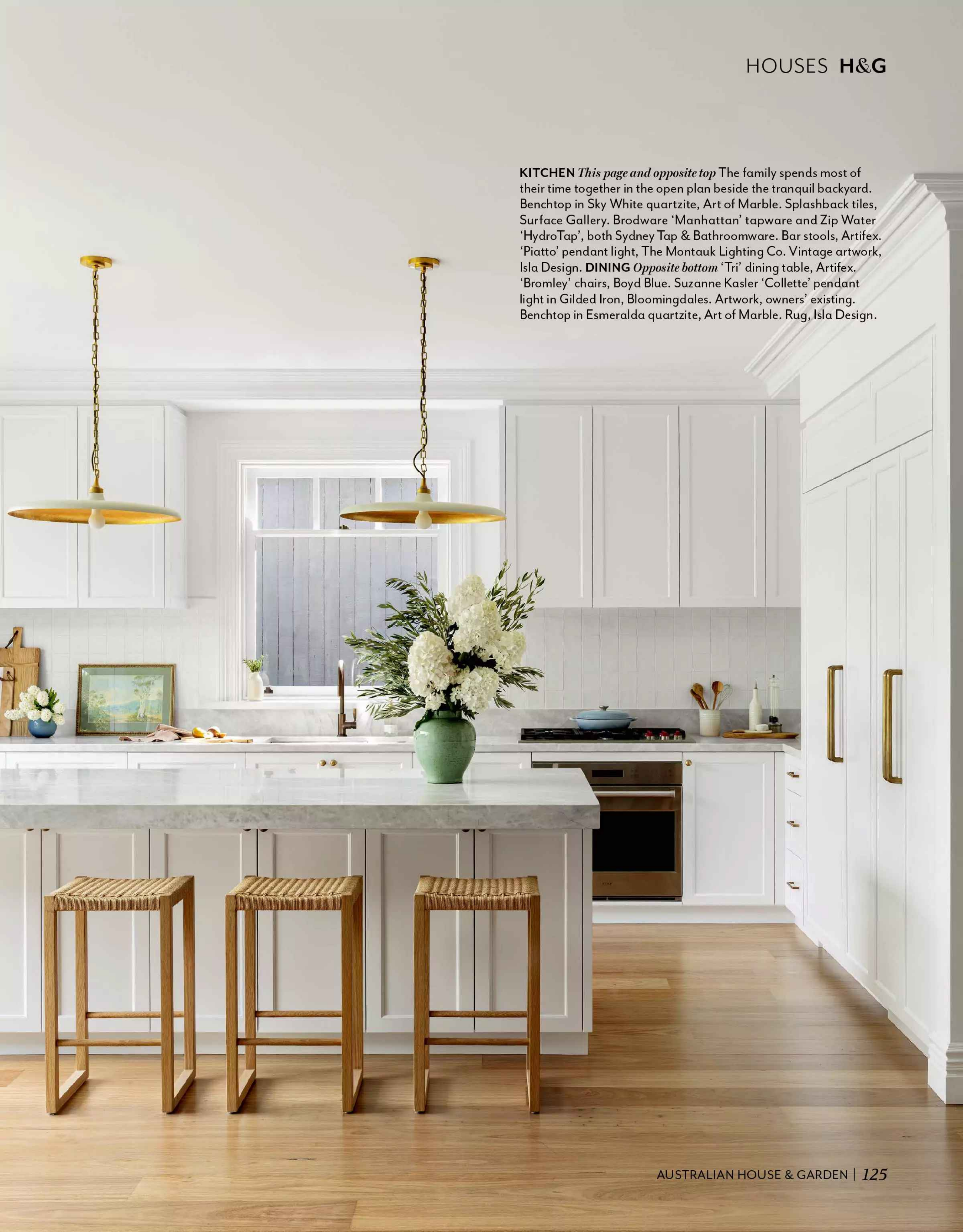
While respecting the home’s original character, Coco drew from her upbringing in the Caribbean and formative years spent in New York, Boston and Washington to infuse a breezy, holiday-inspired patina to the house – through handmade tiles, pops of cane and a blue, green and white palette. Forever finishes and fixtures such as natural stone, weathered brass and classic wall lights were installed.

“Juliet and Jonathan didn’t want to do things the easiest, quickest or cheapest way,” says Coco. “They wanted refined details. In the kitchen, for example, we added a little bead to the joinery profile. We used a marble capping tile and marble skirting in the bathroom. For Ellie’s room we selected beautiful Schumacher ‘Scattered Stars’ wallpaper and blush Roman sheers that could grow with her. Everything in the home was so considered and elegant.”

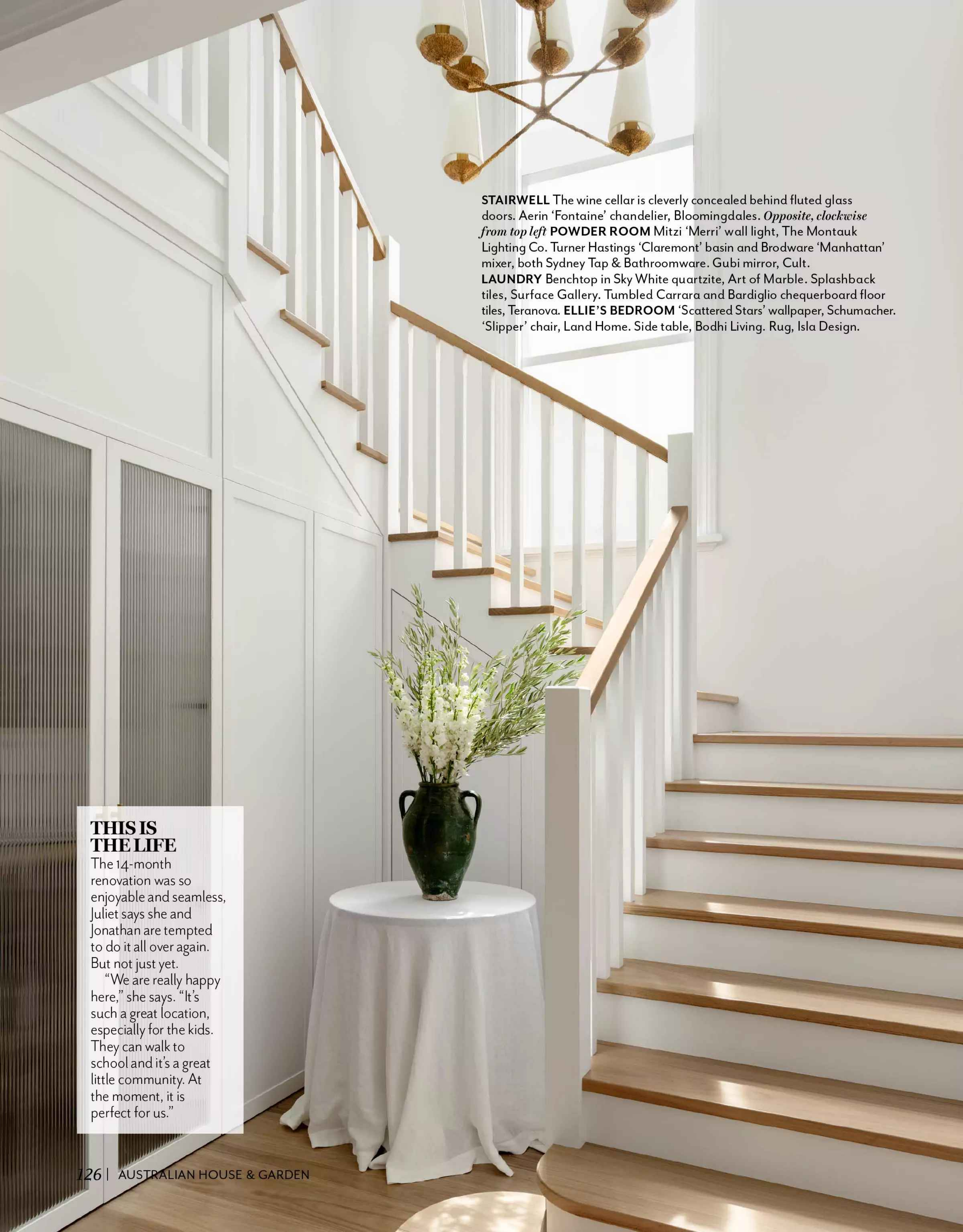
Practicality was also key. On the owners’ wish list were arched French doors to close off the entertaining zone at the rear from the rest of the house. The laundry features two washing machines, custom joinery that hides washing baskets and a laundry chute. Because the family “live” in the dining and living zones, Coco expanded the joinery to accommodate more storage and shelving. “Now they have somewhere to display things, such as family photos, books and objects,” she says. “Across the bottom of the living-room joinery is generous concealed storage for toys and games.”

There’s a place for everything in this heavenly home. “Clutter clutters the brain, so a home should be easy to clean up, easy to live in and flow nicely,” says Coco. “This creates more space for doing more joyful things and being present with your family.” Friends, too, since the house is designed for entertaining. “It’s summer and it’s swimming weather, so we’ll be having more families over,” says Juliet. “All the kids can jump in the pool and we can sit inside and watch them. Our house just works so well.” ▶

***Cote Interiors:*** *coteinteriors.com.*
***Bennett Murada:*** *bennettmurada.com.au.*



**KITCHEN** *This page and opposite top* The family spends most of their time together in the open plan beside the tranquil backyard. Benchtop in Sky White quartzite, Art of Marble. Splashback tiles, Surface Gallery. Brodware 'Manhattan' tapware and Zip Water 'HydroTap', both Sydney Tap & Bathroomware. Bar stools, Artifex. 'Piatto' pendant light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Vintage artwork, Isla Design. **DINING** *Opposite bottom* 'Tri' dining table, Artifex. 'Bromley' chairs, Boyd Blue. Suzanne Kasler 'Collette' pendant light in Gilded Iron, Bloomingdales. Artwork, owners' existing. Benchtop in Esmeralda quartzite, Art of Marble. Rug, Isla Design.

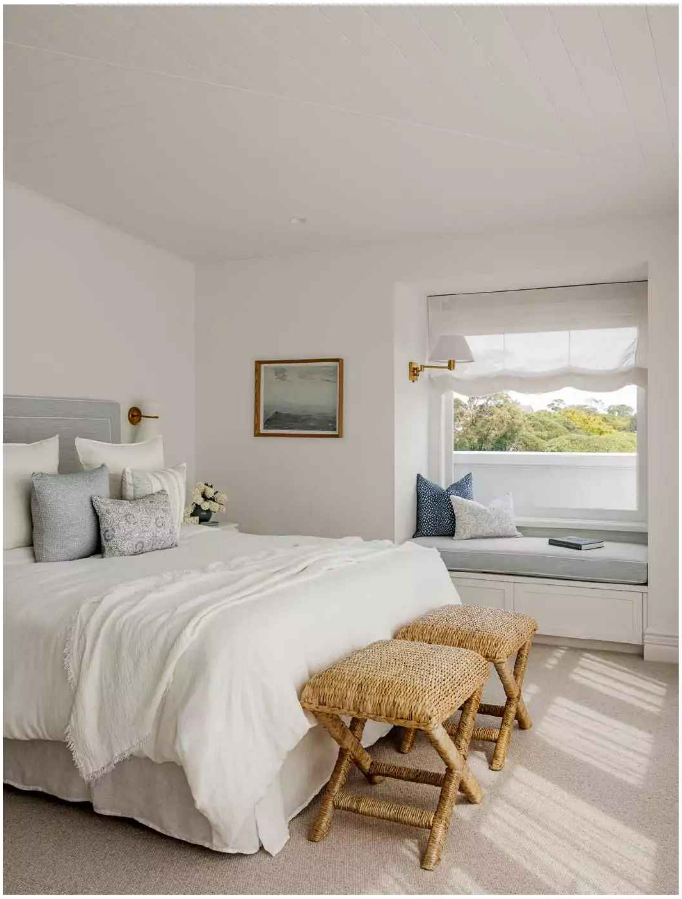


**STAIRWELL** The wine cellar is cleverly concealed behind fluted glass doors. Aerin 'Fontaine' chandelier, Bloomingdales. ***Opposite, clockwise from top left*** **POWDER ROOM** Mitzi 'Merri' wall light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Turner Hastings 'Claremont' basin and Brodware 'Manhattan' mixer, both Sydney Tap & Bathroomware. Gubi mirror, Cult. **LAUNDRY** Benchtop in Sky White quartzite, Art of Marble. Splashback tiles, Surface Gallery. Tumbled Carrara and Bardiglio chequerboard floor tiles, Teranova. **ELLIE'S BEDROOM** 'Scattered Stars' wallpaper, Schumacher. 'Slipper' chair, Land Home. Side table, Bodhi Living. Rug, Isla Design.

## THIS IS THE LIFE

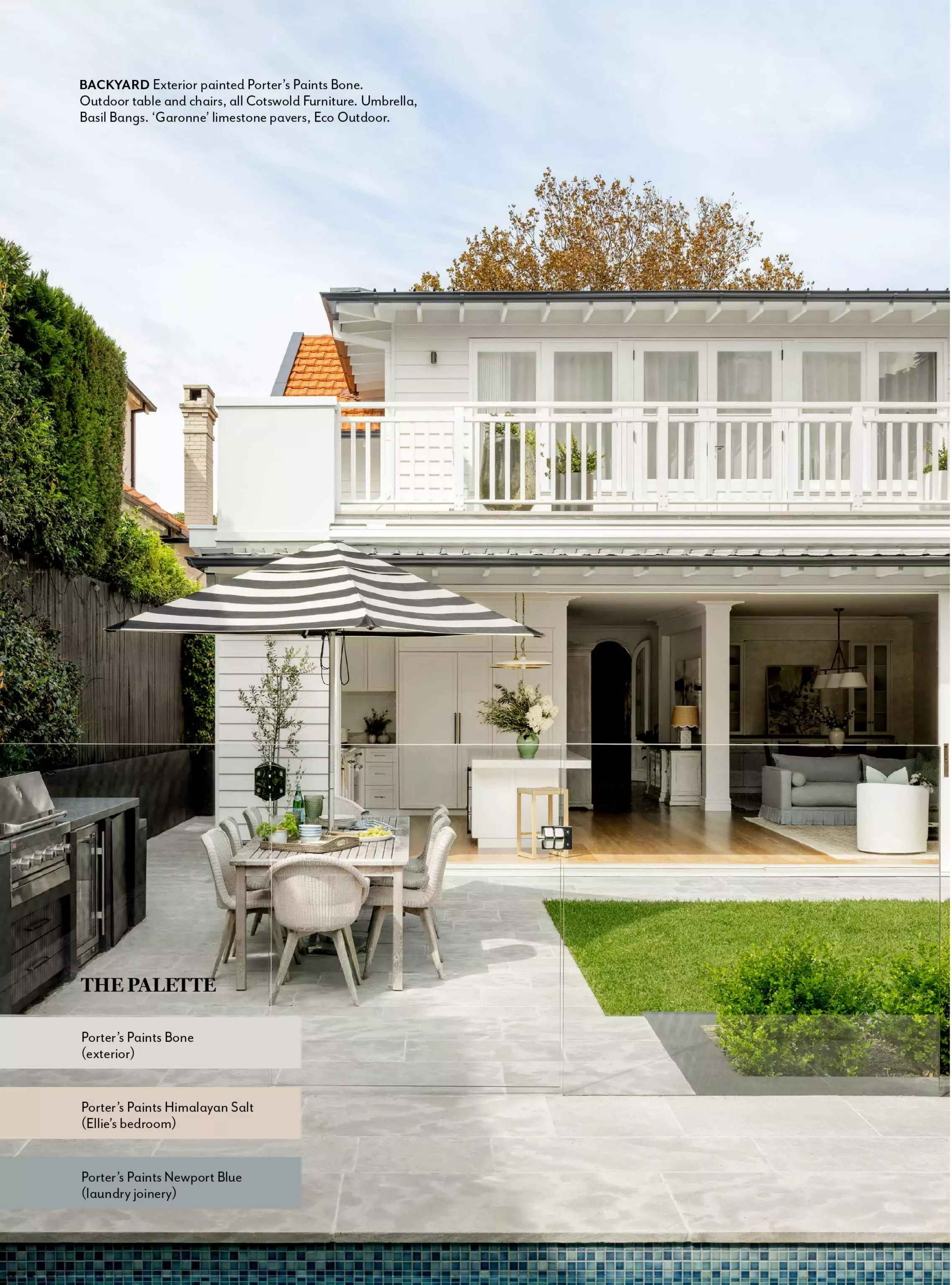
The 14-month renovation was so enjoyable and seamless, Juliet says she and Jonathan are tempted to do it all over again. But not just yet.

"We are really happy here," she says. "It's such a great location, especially for the kids. They can walk to school and it's a great little community. At the moment, it is perfect for us."



**BATHROOM** *Above* Benchtop in Bianco Carrara marble, Art of Marble. Brodware 'Manhattan' tapware, Sydney Tap & Bathroomware. *Bottom right* Carrara marble capping tiles, Teranova. Mitzi 'Merri' single wall light, The Montauk Lighting Co. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Above, right* Xavier Furniture 'Laguna' stools, Isla Design. Studio VC wall lamp, Bloomingdales. Vintage artwork. 'Samurai' carpet in Pyua, Bremworth. *Bottom left* 'Tradewinds' bedside table, Xavier Furniture. Aerin 'Clarkson' wall light, Bloomingdales. *Opposite* Juliet opens the balcony door.

> “I always aim for my designs to be beautiful but also really functional.” COCO TULLY, INTERIOR DESIGNER



**BACKYARD** Exterior painted Porter's Paints Bone. Outdoor table and chairs, all Cotswold Furniture. Umbrella, Basil Bangs. 'Garonne' limestone pavers, Eco Outdoor.

## THE PALETTE

Porter's Paints Bone
(exterior)

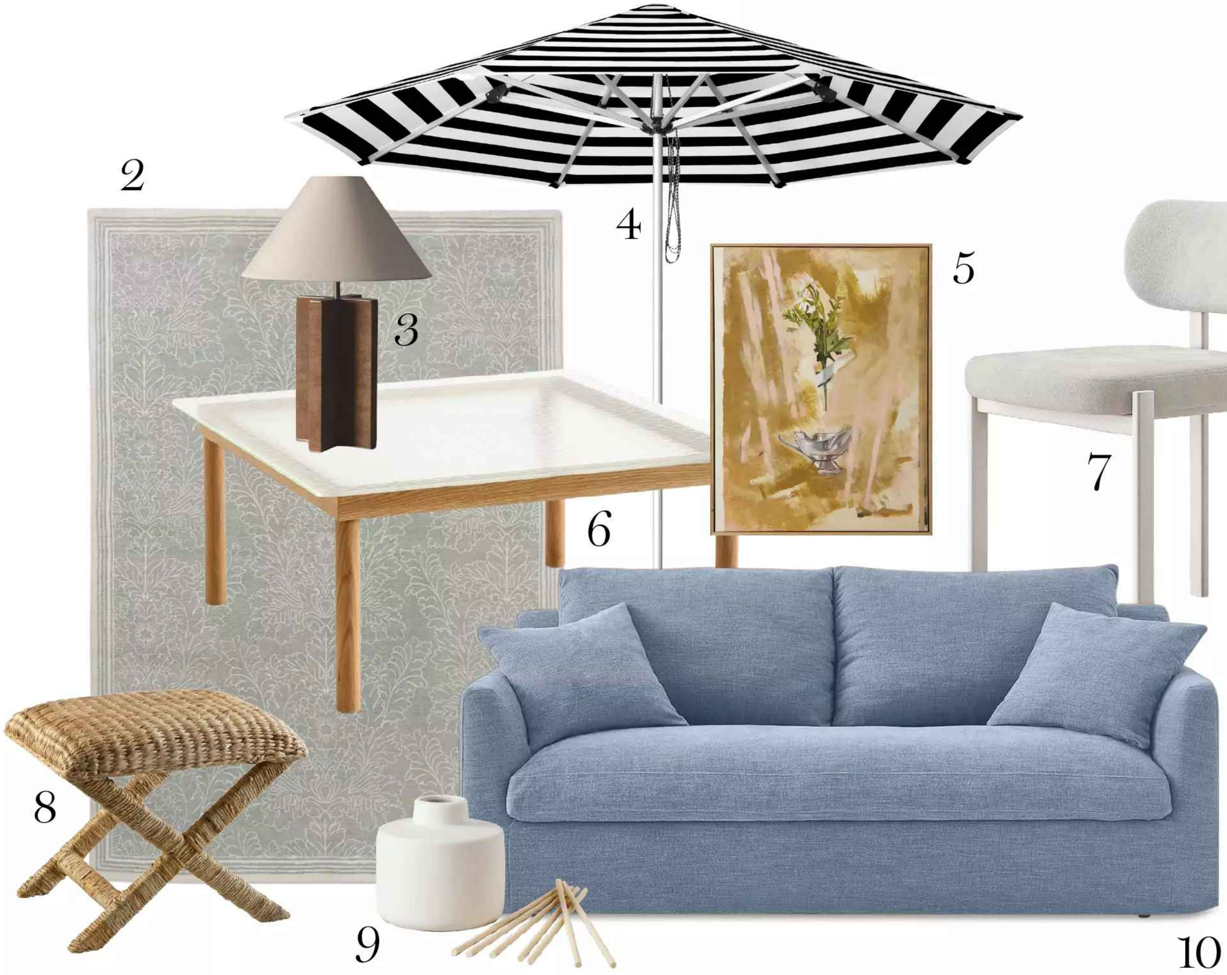
Porter's Paints Himalayan Salt
(Ellie's bedroom)

Porter's Paints Newport Blue
(laundry joinery)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

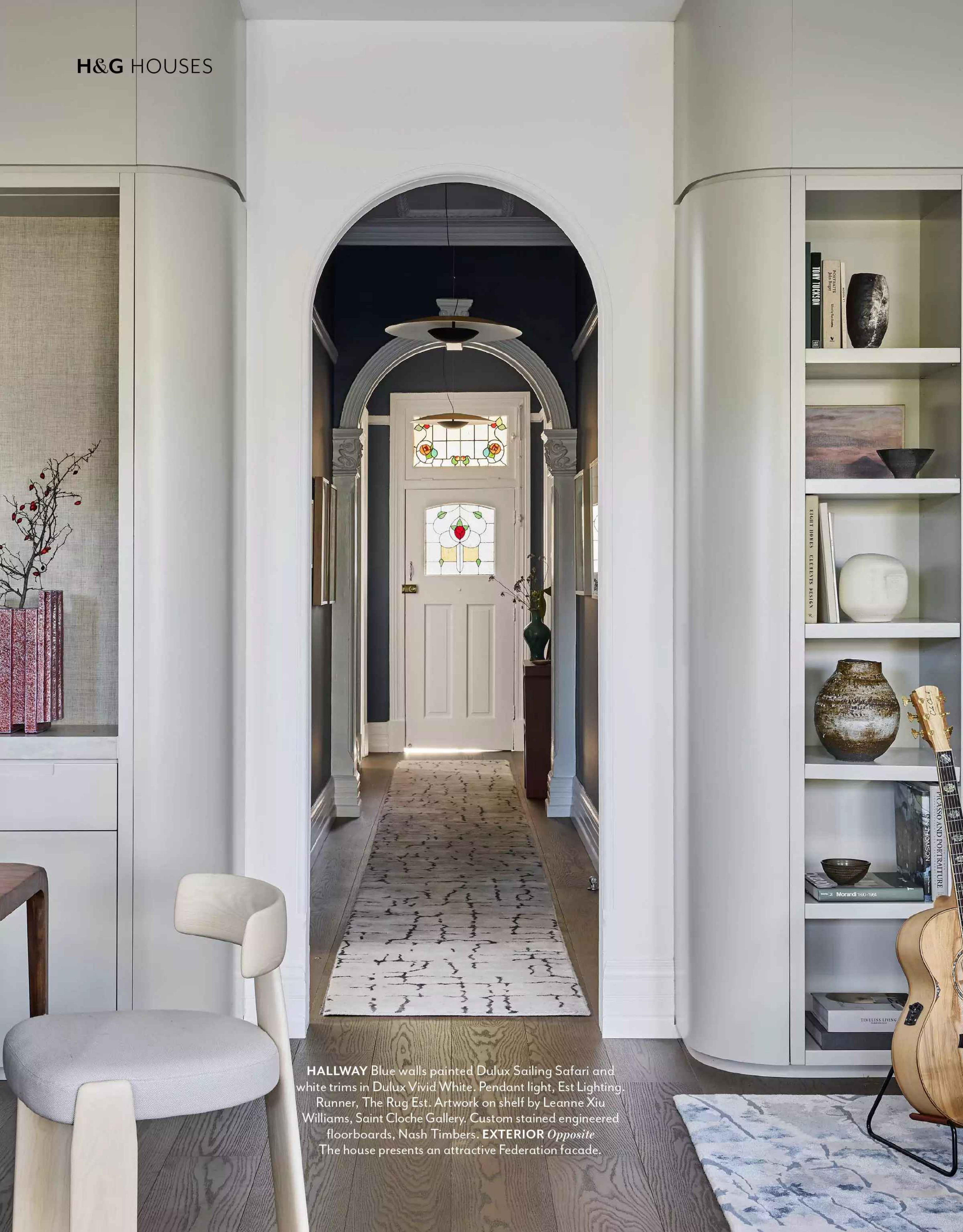
# THE SOURCE

*Entertain all summer long with an elegant ensemble.*



Produced by Marissa Foye.

**1** 'Renaissance' grey oval **platter**, $359, Wedgwood. **2** 'Silchester' **rug** in Pale Sage, $3359, Myer. **3** 'Marquis' **table lamp** in Pecan, $1200, Rachel Donath. **4** 'Go Large' **umbrella** in Chaplin, $1399, Basil Bangs. **5** *Catching light* **artwork** by Jamie Preisz and Ash Holmes, $5040, Hake House. **6** 'Kofi' **coffee table**, $1120, Cult. **7** 'Franka' outdoor **dining chair**, $980, Casa Blanco. **8** 'Laguna' cross leg **stool**, $450, Inside Homestyle. **9** Australian House & Garden 'Hinterland' **diffuser** in Lemon, Pine & Salt Spray (200ml), $34.95, Myer. **10** 'Agnes' slipcover storage three-seater **sofa** in Dusty Blue, $2099, Castlery. **H&G**

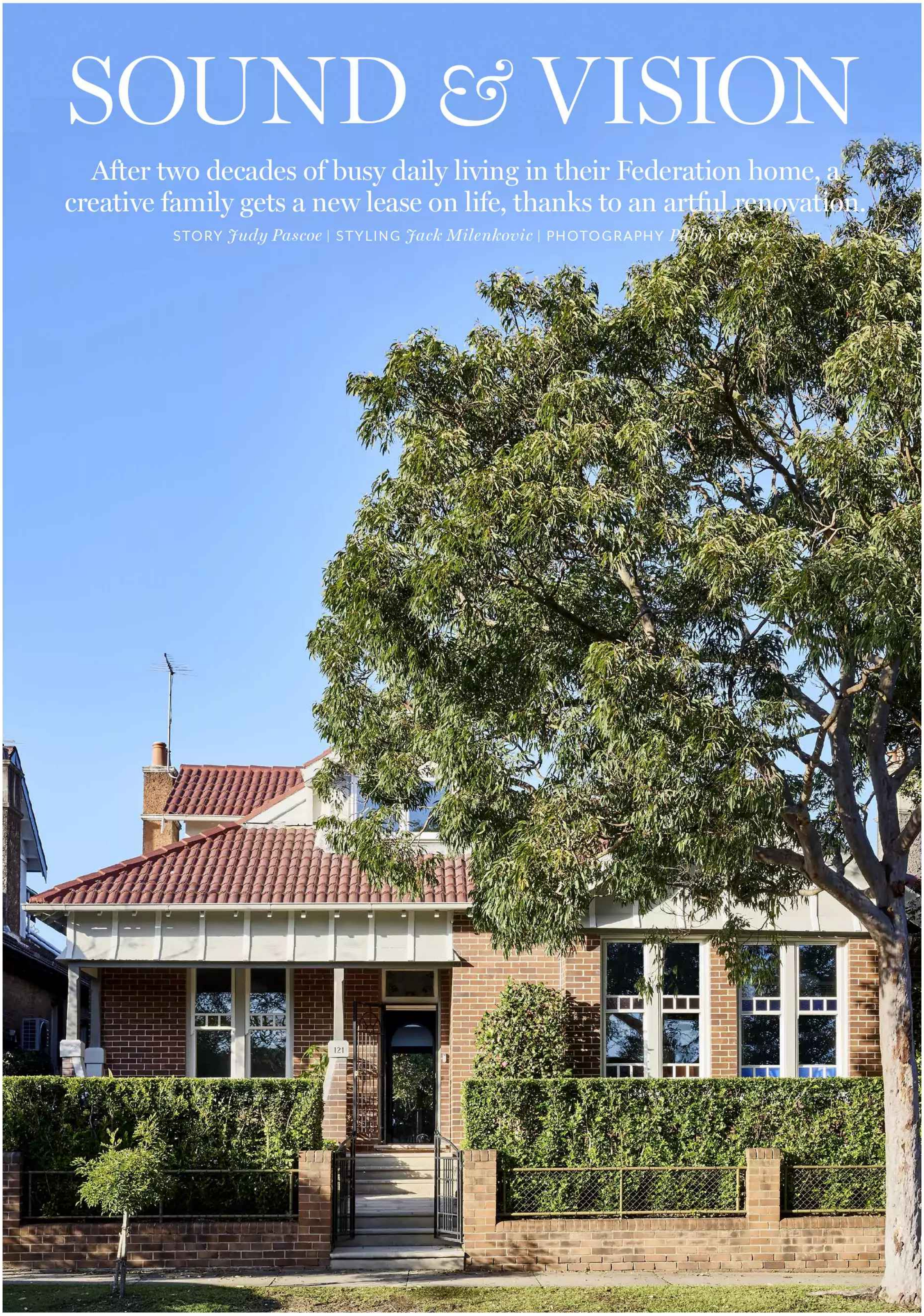


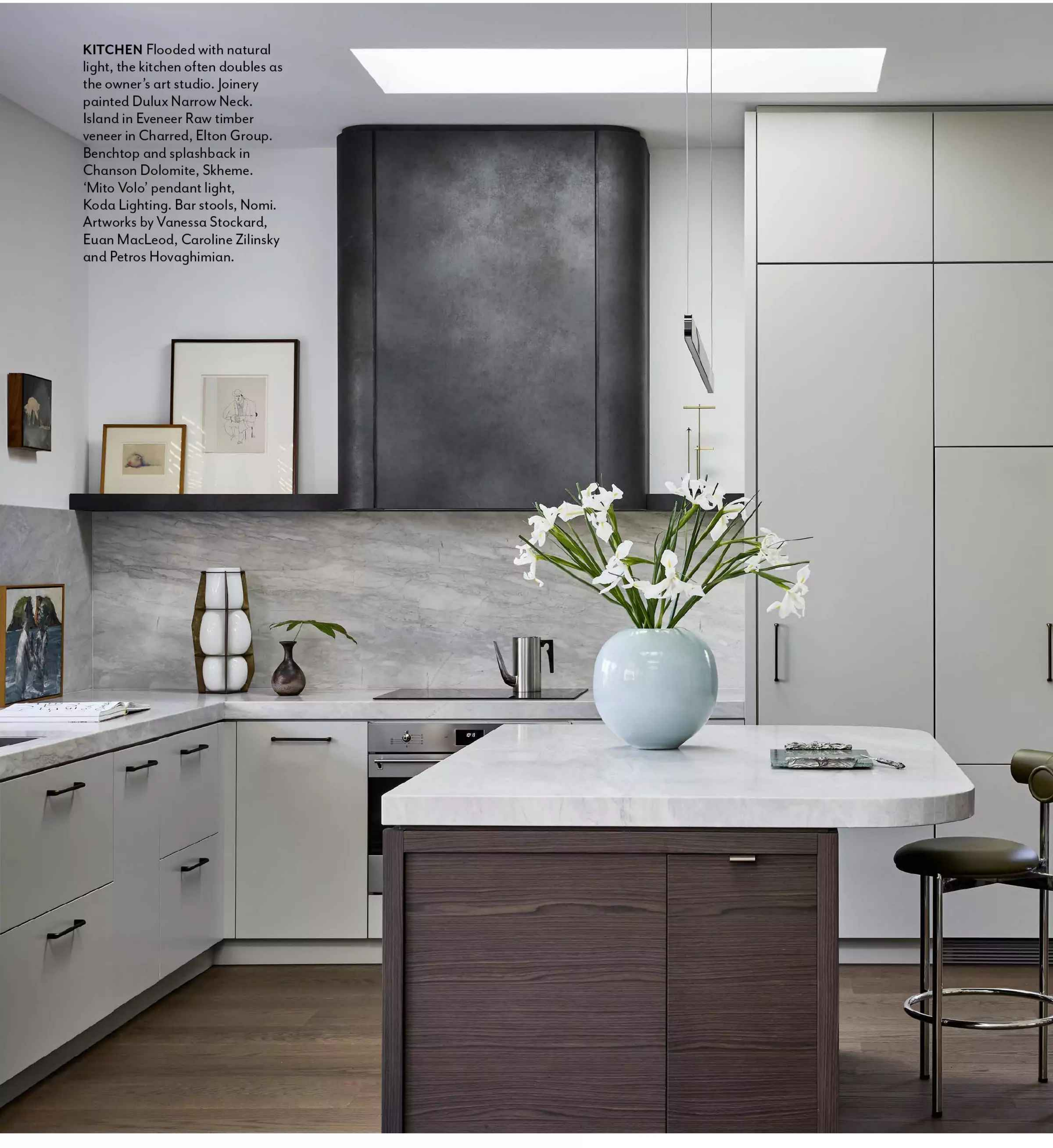
**HALLWAY** Blue walls painted Dulux Sailing Safari and white trims in Dulux Vivid White. Pendant light, Est Lighting. Runner, The Rug Est. Artwork on shelf by Leanne Xiu Williams, Saint Cloche Gallery. Custom stained engineered floorboards, Nash Timbers. **EXTERIOR** *Opposite* The house presents an attractive Federation facade.

# SOUND & VISION

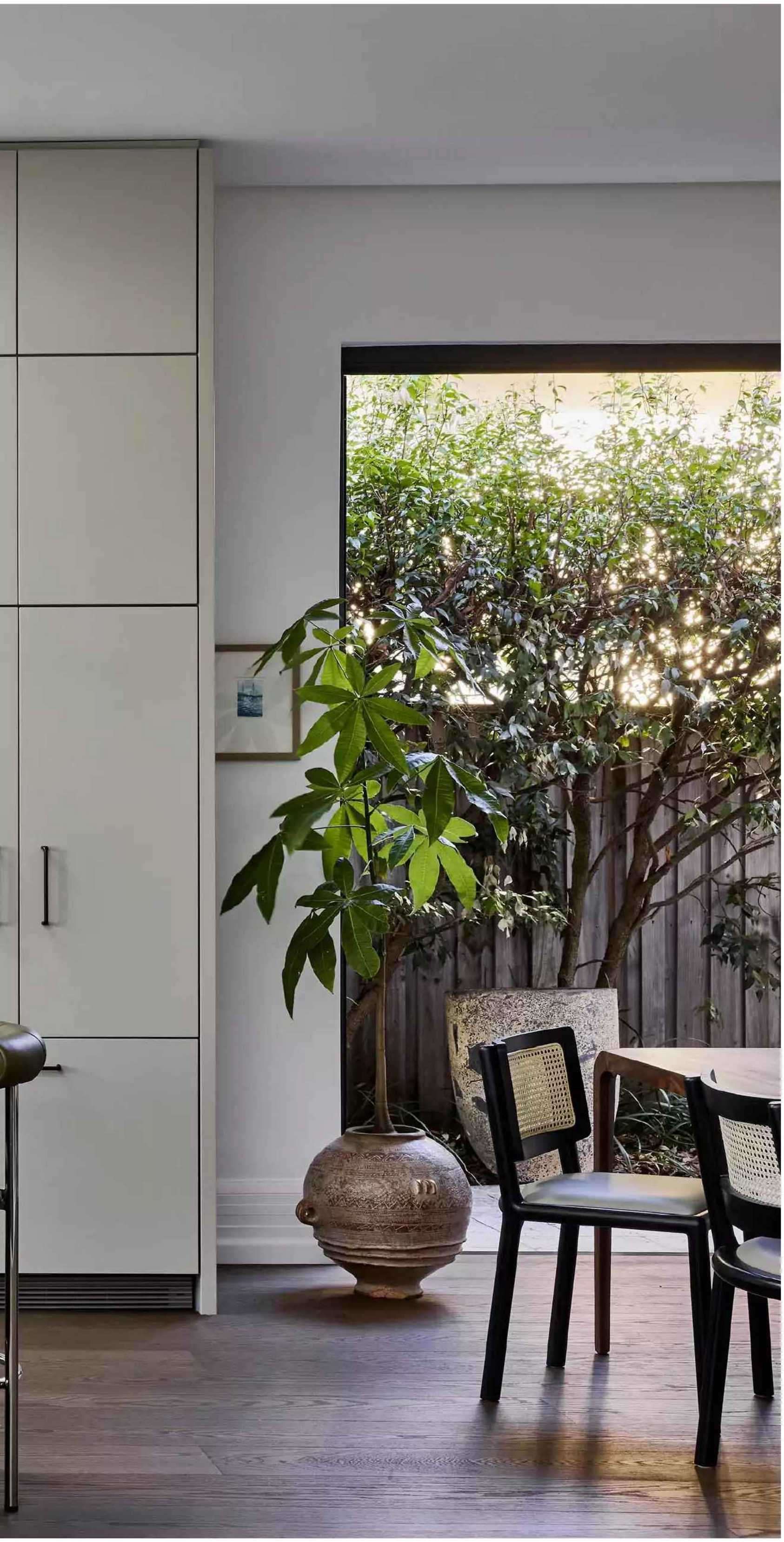
After two decades of busy daily living in their Federation home, a creative family gets a new lease on life, thanks to an artful renovation.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Jack Milenkovic* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Pablo Veiga*





**KITCHEN** Flooded with natural light, the kitchen often doubles as the owner's art studio. Joinery painted Dulux Narrow Neck. Island in Eveneer Raw timber veneer in Charred, Elton Group. Benchtop and splashback in Chanson Dolomite, Skheme. 'Mito Volo' pendant light, Koda Lighting. Bar stools, Nomi. Artworks by Vanessa Stockard, Euan MacLeod, Caroline Zilinsky and Petros Hovaghimian.



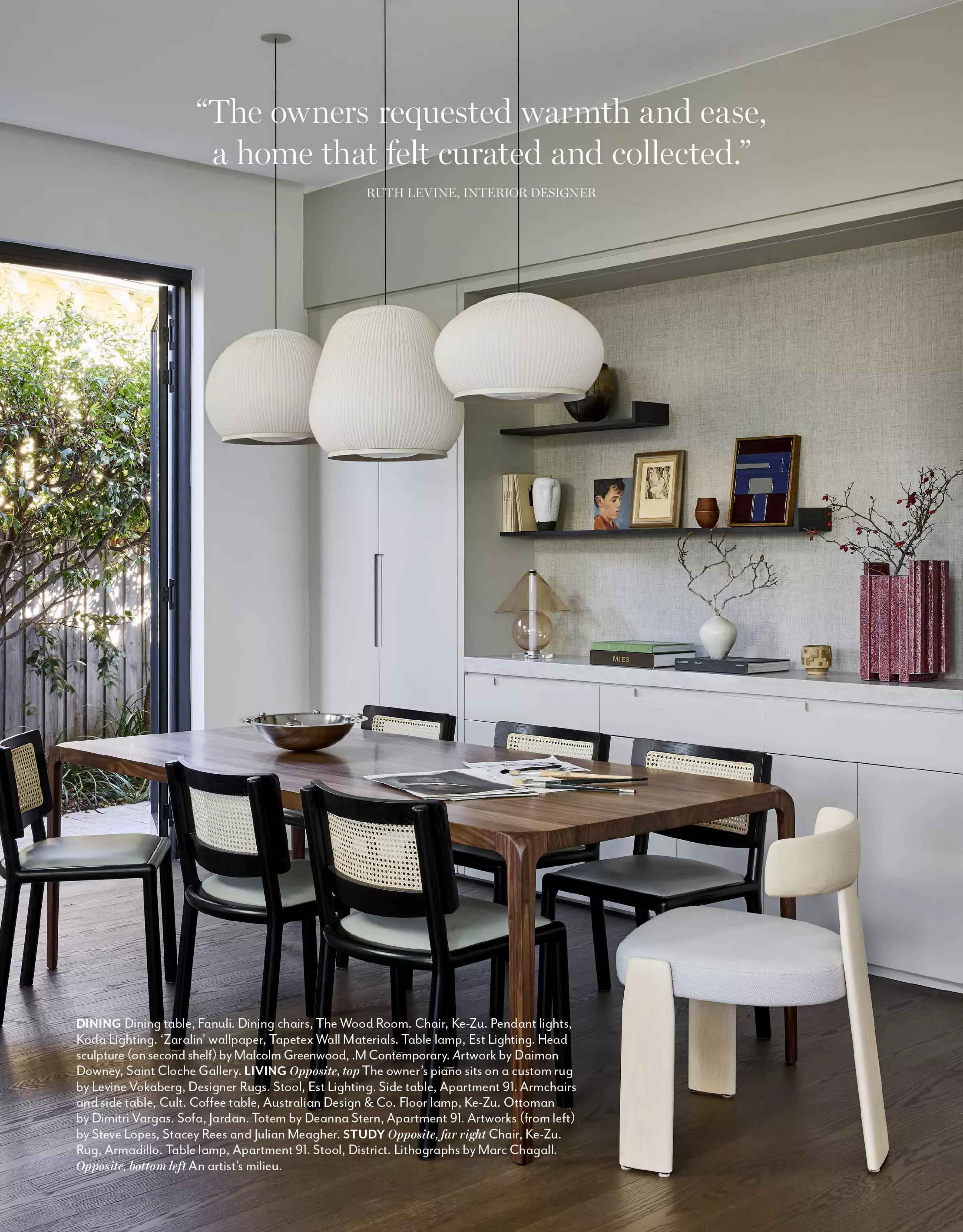
This newly renovated Federation home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is alive with art and music. For one of the owners, the joy of having multiple spaces where she can draw and paint is immeasurable. Pencils, papers and various craft materials are carried in a tray to be positioned in different rooms, perhaps where the light is best at the time or where she feels most inspired. And her husband has found equal joy in a media room where his guitar riffs fill the air, and music in all its glory can be fully appreciated.

It would be fair to say that the couple, their two grown children and Albus, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, are revelling in the beauty and facility of their home, which has been reimagined by Ruth Levine, Lisa Falvo and Debbie Freedberg of interior design studio Levine Vokaberg. It has been a long process, starting before the Covid pandemic hit and continuing in fits and starts until the home stretch was reached this year.

The family had come to the parkside property in 2003 when the children were aged two and four, and for years they had lived comfortably enough with its idiosyncrasies and limitations. However, in 2019 they approached Ruth, who was a friend, with a brief to enlarge the dining area, 'fix' the under-stair bathroom and laundry, and create more storage. They also requested a secondary entertaining area to facilitate gatherings for their teenagers and friends.

"The owners had put up with maintenance issues, the upstairs bathroom, windows in need of repair, a leaking roof and a house not suited to their lifestyle," says Ruth. When the scope of work increased and a DA was required, the designers consulted architect Marcos Puga of Arcanary, who worked on the plans and liaised with council. The house was under a heritage order involving some challenging design parameters, but all were able to be resolved favourably.

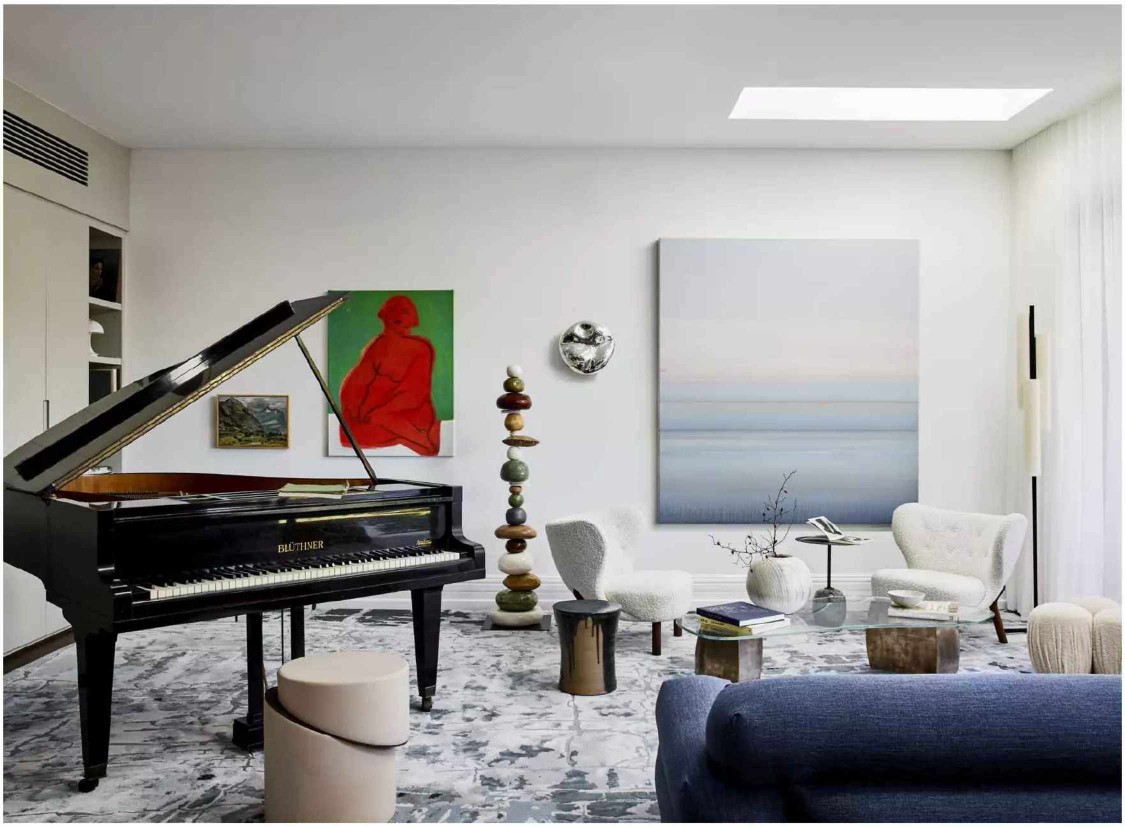
Despite an "unfortunate modification" to the back of the home some years before, ▶

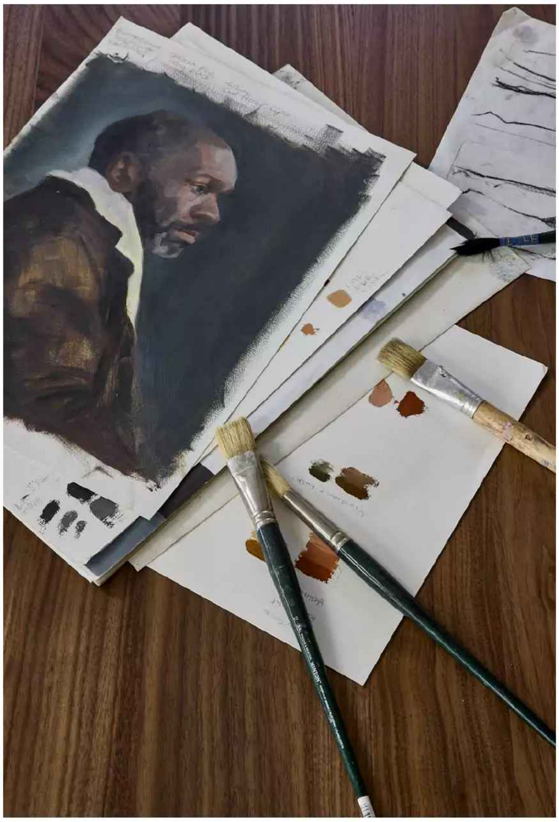


“The owners requested warmth and ease, a home that felt curated and collected.”

RUTH LEVINE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

**DINING** Dining table, Fanuli. Dining chairs, The Wood Room. Chair, Ke-Zu. Pendant lights, Koda Lighting. ‘Zaralin’ wallpaper, Tapetex Wall Materials. Table lamp, Est Lighting. Head sculpture (on second shelf) by Malcolm Greenwood, .M Contemporary. Artwork by Daimon Downey, Saint Cloche Gallery. **LIVING** *Opposite, top* The owner’s piano sits on a custom rug by Levine Vokaberg, Designer Rugs. Stool, Est Lighting. Side table, Apartment 91. Armchairs and side table, Cult. Coffee table, Australian Design & Co. Floor lamp, Ke-Zu. Ottoman by Dimitri Vargas. Sofa, Jardan. Totem by Deanna Stern, Apartment 91. Artworks (from left) by Steve Lopes, Stacey Rees and Julian Meagher. **STUDY** *Opposite, far right* Chair, Ke-Zu. Rug, Armadillo. Table lamp, Apartment 91. Stool, District. Lithographs by Marc Chagall. *Opposite, bottom left* An artist’s milieu.





the heritage features, including the high embossed ceilings, detailed cornices, archway, skirting and architraves, were intact and the original front of the home has been successfully merged with a new contemporary extension at the rear. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms (including a powder room/laundry), her study and his studio/office are complemented by a combined kitchen, dining and living area opening to a sun-drenched terrace and an enclosed media/family room, dubbed the 'shiraz cave' for its spectacular, rich magenta-hued walls and ceiling that offer a "visual hug", says Ruth.

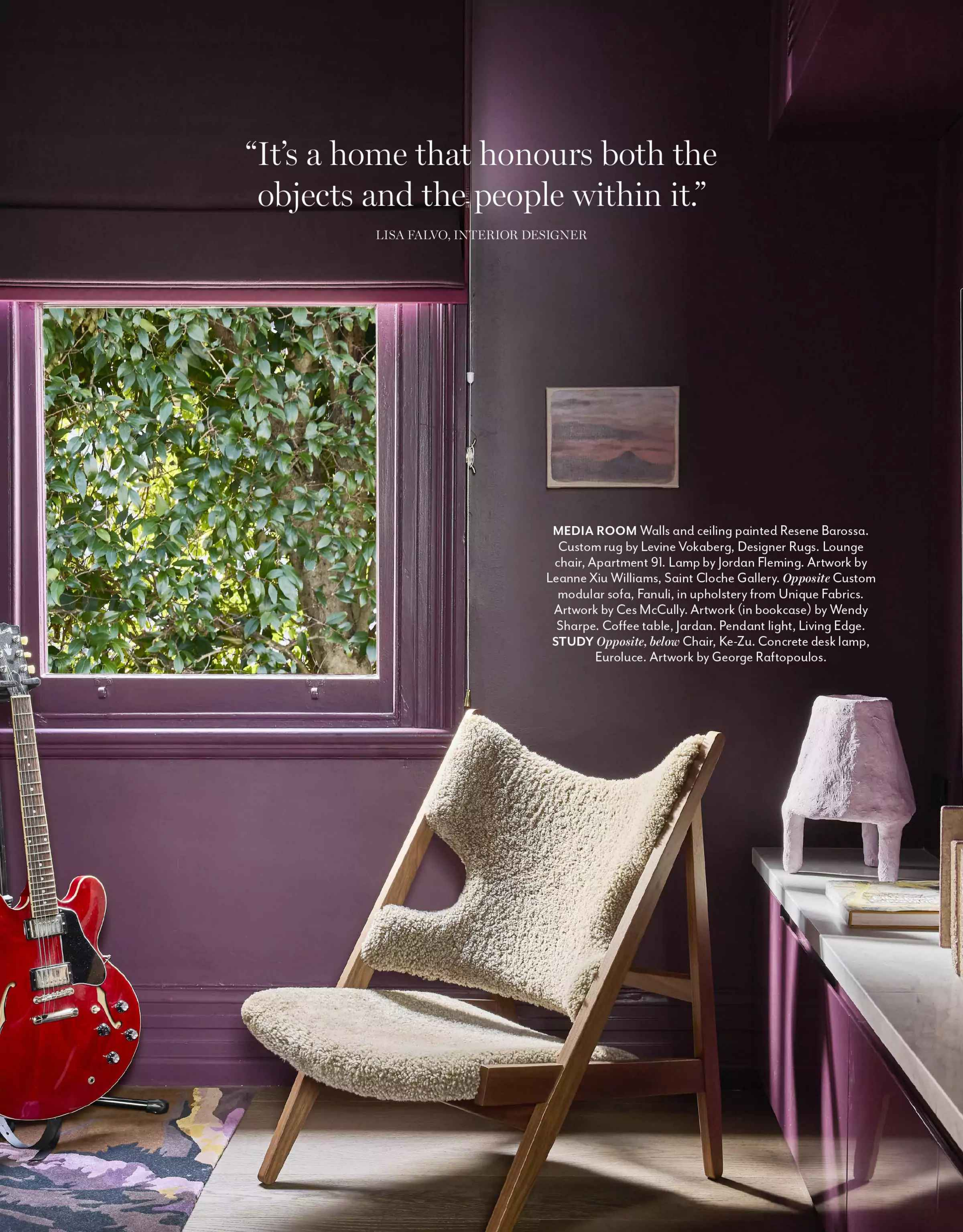
"The house was designed to be enjoyed," she continues. "The owners requested warmth and ease, no ostentation or rigidity, but a home that felt curated and collected." Levine Vokaberg designed spaces that feel both intimate and generous, "where art can shift and arrangements can evolve".

Whether the owners are playing music, reading books on the window seat in the main bedroom or drawing and painting, all the rooms have a cosy and relaxing ambience. "It's a home that honours both the objects and the people within it," adds Lisa.

Colour has been used to great effect and is "the thread that binds the past to the present", the designers say. "Every selection reflects a layered approach to delineate the house's old and new parts, whether by highlighting intricate heritage detailing or contrasting the contemporary living area with a calm, textural palette."

The vivid blue and white of the entrance hall and the abstract patterned runner create "a magnificent first impression", says the owner, while the graphic wallpaper in the side hallway ('Nightbird Symphony' by Catherine Martin for Mokum) is "an absolute delight" – the perfect interpretation of her request for something that reminds her of Henri Rousseau's paintings.

Art is everywhere, even in the kitchen with its layered displays on the benchtop, shelves and walls. Blessed with abundant natural light and an outlook over the garden, the kitchen sometimes becomes the owner's ▶



> “It’s a home that honours both the objects and the people within it.”
>
> LISA FALVO, INTERIOR DESIGNER

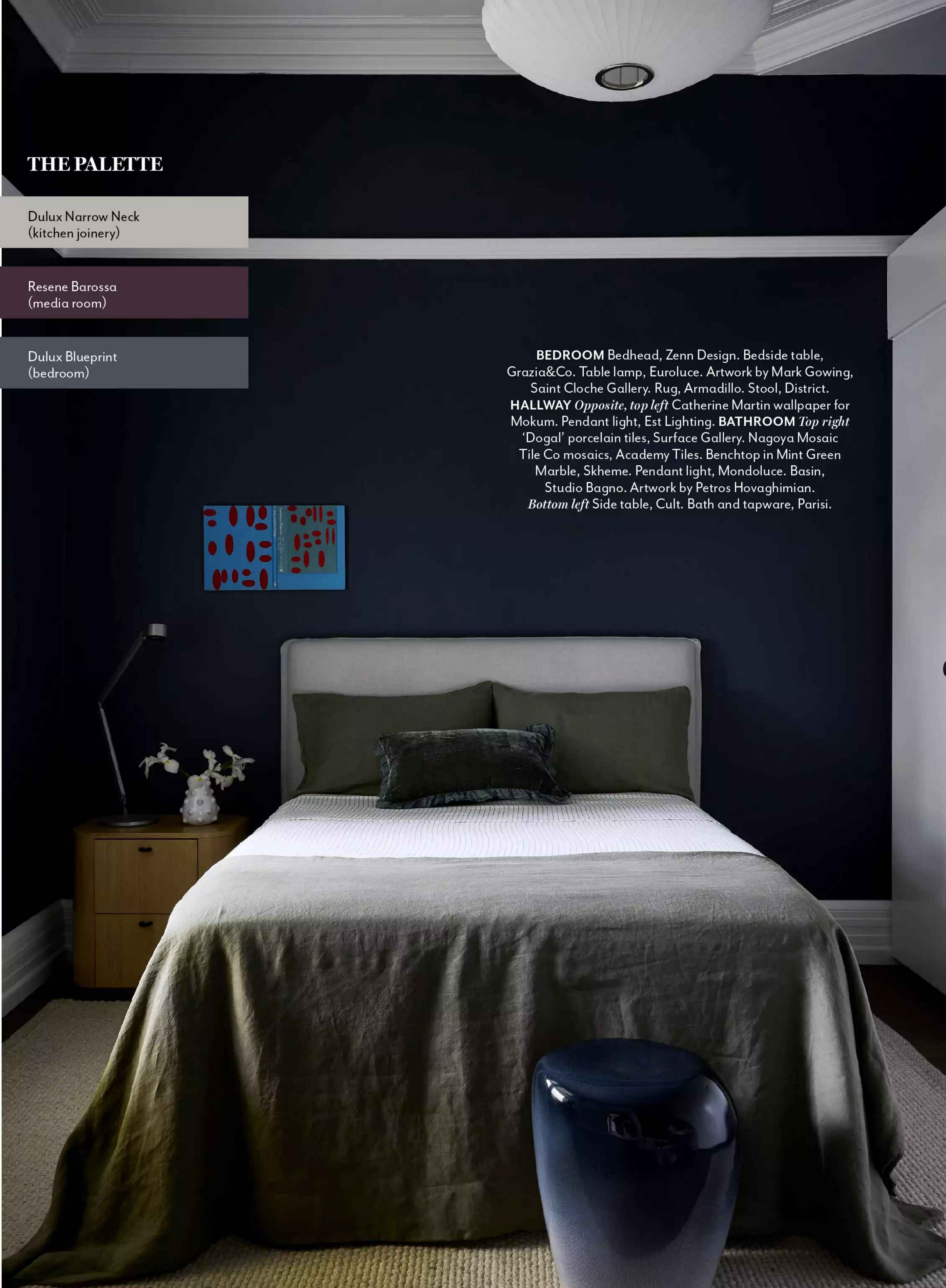
**MEDIA ROOM** Walls and ceiling painted Resene Barossa. Custom rug by Levine Vokaberg, Designer Rugs. Lounge chair, Apartment 91. Lamp by Jordan Fleming. Artwork by Leanne Xiu Williams, Saint Cloche Gallery. *Opposite* Custom modular sofa, Fanuli, in upholstery from Unique Fabrics. Artwork by Ces McCully. Artwork (in bookcase) by Wendy Sharpe. Coffee table, Jardan. Pendant light, Living Edge. **STUDY** *Opposite, below* Chair, Ke-Zu. Concrete desk lamp, Euroluce. Artwork by George Raftopoulos.

studio. “The home feels lived in, loved and endlessly inspiring,” says Debbie.

The small details in the renovation have captivated the owners who say they felt it was a true collaboration between them and Levine Vokaberg. The owner comments, “I’m not a Pinterest type of person so they often had to read my mind, but somehow they managed it!” Among her favourite features are the bespoke joinery in the living area that “went beyond our expectations and is filled with books and art that reflect our personalities”, the custom rugs that “create a calmness and sophistication”, and the natural stone in the kitchen and bathrooms that “I never would have considered” before Levine Vokaberg suggested it.

It’s a house that will evolve with time and life events. The owner remarks, “The renovation has changed the way we live and every day it is a pleasure to move through the house.” ▶

***Levine Vokaberg:** levinevokaberg.com.au. **Arcanary:** arcanary.com. **Truescope Projects:** truescopeprojects.com.au.*



## THE PALETTE

Dulux Narrow Neck
(kitchen joinery)

Resene Barossa
(media room)

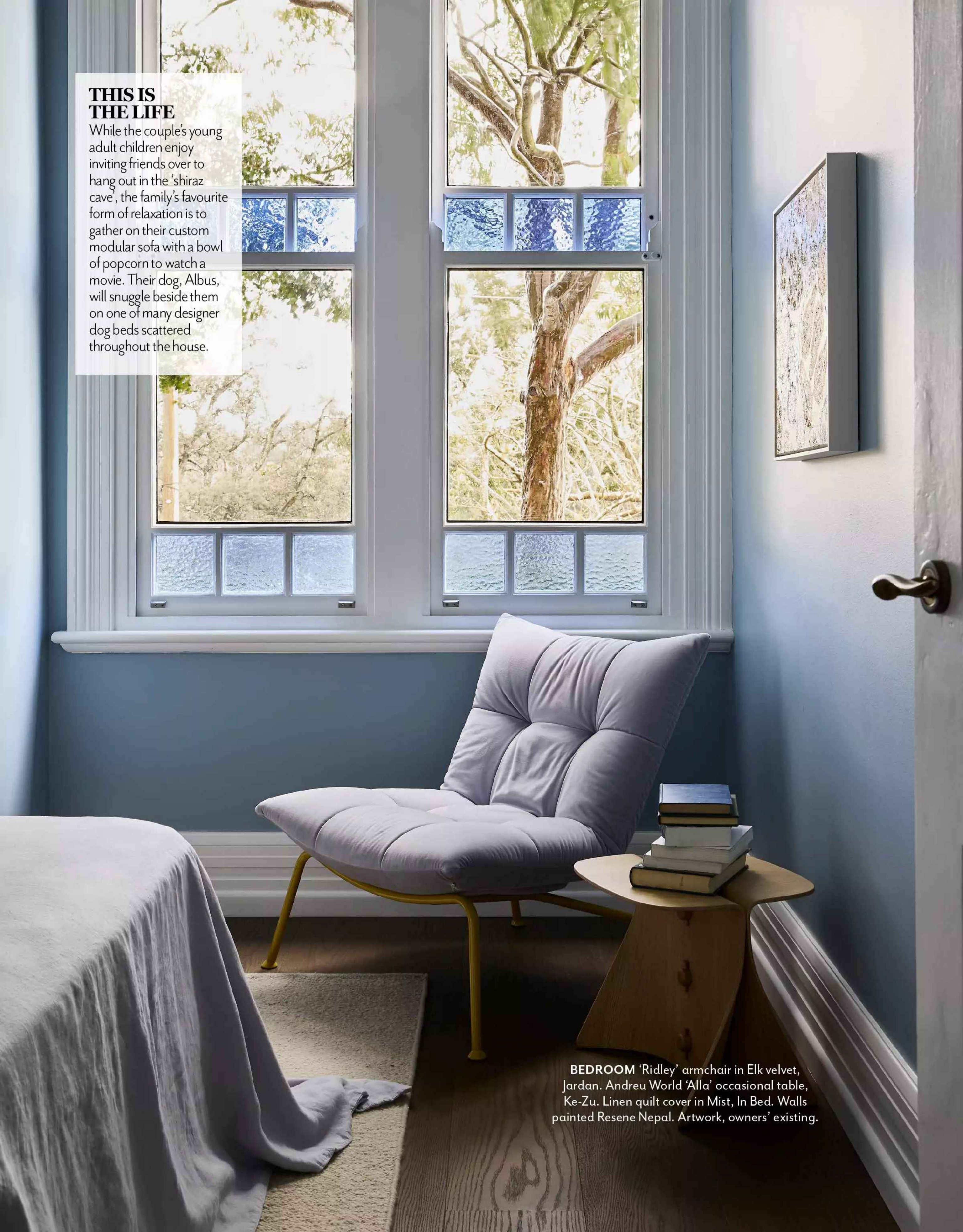
Dulux Blueprint
(bedroom)

**BEDROOM** Bedhead, Zenn Design. Bedside table, Grazia&Co. Table lamp, Euroluce. Artwork by Mark Gowing, Saint Cloche Gallery. Rug, Armadillo. Stool, District. **HALLWAY** *Opposite, top left* Catherine Martin wallpaper for Mokum. Pendant light, Est Lighting. **BATHROOM** *Top right* 'Dogal' porcelain tiles, Surface Gallery. Nagoya Mosaic Tile Co mosaics, Academy Tiles. Benchtop in Mint Green Marble, Skheme. Pendant light, Mondoluce. Basin, Studio Bagno. Artwork by Petros Hovaghimian. *Bottom left* Side table, Cult. Bath and tapware, Parisi.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

## THIS IS THE LIFE

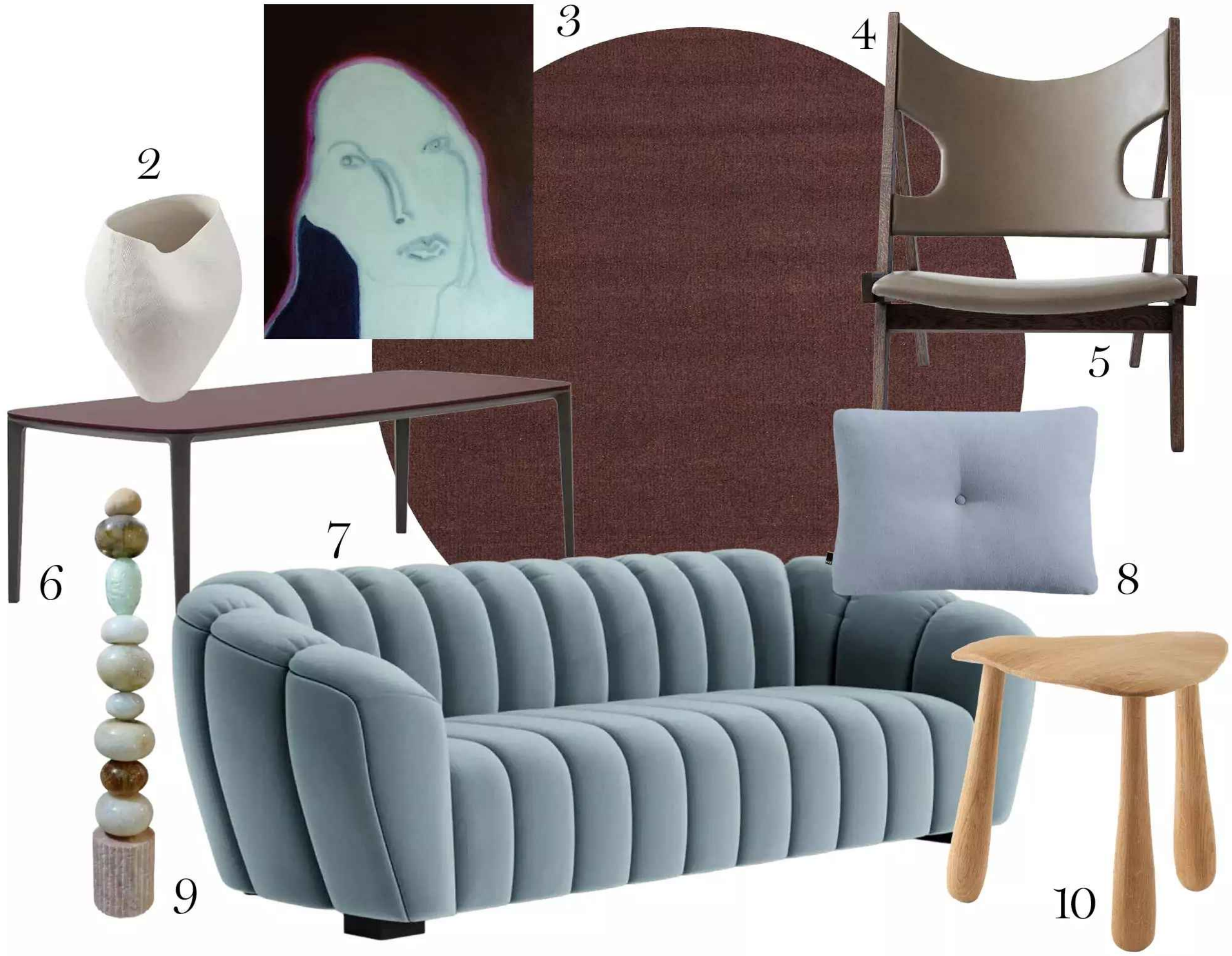
While the couple's young adult children enjoy inviting friends over to hang out in the 'shiraz cave', the family's favourite form of relaxation is to gather on their custom modular sofa with a bowl of popcorn to watch a movie. Their dog, Albus, will snuggle beside them on one of many designer dog beds scattered throughout the house.



**BEDROOM** 'Ridley' armchair in Elk velvet, Jardan. Andreu World 'Alla' occasional table, Ke-Zu. Linen quilt cover in Mist, In Bed. Walls painted Resene Nepal. Artwork, owners' existing.

# THE SOURCE

*A symphony of colour meets sculptural silhouettes.*



1 &Tradition 'Mist AP16' **pendant**, $1090, The Montauk Lighting Co. 2 Moule **vase** in Ivory, $271 (medium), The Foundry. 3 *Opaque* **artwork** by Stacey Rees, $2100, Saint Cloche Gallery. 4 Audo Copenhagen 'Knitting' **lounge chair** in Dark Stained Oak/Leather Dakar, $6500, Arrival Hall. 5 'Plush' round **rug** in Maroon (250cm), $1899, Elan & Earth. 6 Henry **table** in Black Elm/Glossy Glass Bordeaux, $15,725, Poliform. 7 Laurent 3.5-seater **sofa** in Avignon Velvet in Sky Blue, $3895, Coco Republic. 8 Hay 'Dot' **cushion** in Soft Blue, $160, Frankbros. 9 Untitled **sculpture** by Aida Mahmudova, POA, Gazelli Art House. 10 'Joy' **stool**, POA, Criteria. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

H&G
**SMALLER**
SPACES

# *Hidden* GEM

A wonderful world of colour is found within the walls of an unassuming 1990s apartment building in one of Melbourne's most stylish suburbs.

STORY *Holly Byrne* | STYLING *Bree Banfield* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Lisa Cohen*

**GROUND FLOOR LIVING**
Door painted Porter's Paints Extra Virgin. Custom steel shelving and arched doors (throughout) by Studio ORA, fabricated by designer Dijana's father, Lorenzo Mingerulli of Walker Celano. *Opposite* Walls painted Porter's Paints Stone Paint Coarse in Double Watermark. Feature wall tiles, Tiento Tiles. Artworks (on wall) by Joël Froment and (on shelf) by Irene Grishin-Selzer. B&B Italia 'Tufty-Time' sofa, Space. 'Billy Pink' rug, Hali.

For Dijana Moisis, Studio Ora's design director, the renovation of this apartment was rather personal. The interior designer purchased the two-level inner Melbourne property in 2016 with her husband, and was looking for more than just a family-friendly layout from the transformation.

When the couple first stepped inside the industrial apartment that would become their home, Dijana immediately knew it was "the one". "It was rough, really rough," she says, laughing. "But it had great bones. The concrete ceilings, the rawness, the way the balcony opened onto that private courtyard, it all had potential. I could just see it."

For the first four years after they bought it, she simply took notes on how they lived, where the light fell, and which parts of the layout felt most awkward. The biggest challenge? Storage and natural light. "We somehow added five or six metres of storage within the same footprint," she says. "And that internal fluted-glass window in the ensuite, it brought in light and completely changed how the space felt."

Designing her own home was harder for Dijana than working for her clients, a sentiment shared widely by designers acting as their own clients. "As a designer, you see so much you love. Picking one direction is tough," she says. "So I made a conscious decision not to overthink it. I followed my instincts."

Before founding Studio ORA, Dijana studied goldsmithing and silversmithing, and grew up watching her father, a commercial metal fabricator, work with steel. "Metalwork has always been part of my life. I basically grew up in a factory," she says. "So the arched-steel doors and custom shelving were my way of bringing that heritage in." ▶

**KITCHEN** Joinery in LikeWood 2D+ Milano Oak, Tesrol. Splashback and island in 'Iriede' tiles, Academy Tiles. Steel-framed window and planter (throughout) by Studio Ora. Terrazzo benchtop, Signorino. Dining table, Made Studio. 'Soft' chairs, Daniel - Emma. Artwork (on shelf) by Ali McNabney-Stevens, Studio Gallery. Lithographs by Salvador Dalí (on wall). Ceramics by Mali Taylor and Belinda Wiltshire. Sofa, Space. Side table, Collective. Floor lamp, Cult. Flooring, Made By Storey.

> "I'm a collector. I love being able to see the things that make me happy."

DIJANA MOISIS, DESIGN DIRECTOR/OWNER

Her father, Lorenzo Mingerulli of Walker Celano, fabricated the shelving, arched doorways and internal window. "It was a real collaboration between us," she says. "He'd never made curved doorways. There was a lot of research and development, but it's what transformed the apartment from industrial to homely."

Dijana fell pregnant with her son, Ezra, during the process, which served as its own form of inspiration. "I wanted him to grow up somewhere memorable," says Dijana. "I love the idea of him one day saying, 'Remember our green terrazzo kitchen and the scalloped curtains in my room?' I wanted him to feel creativity was part of everyday life."

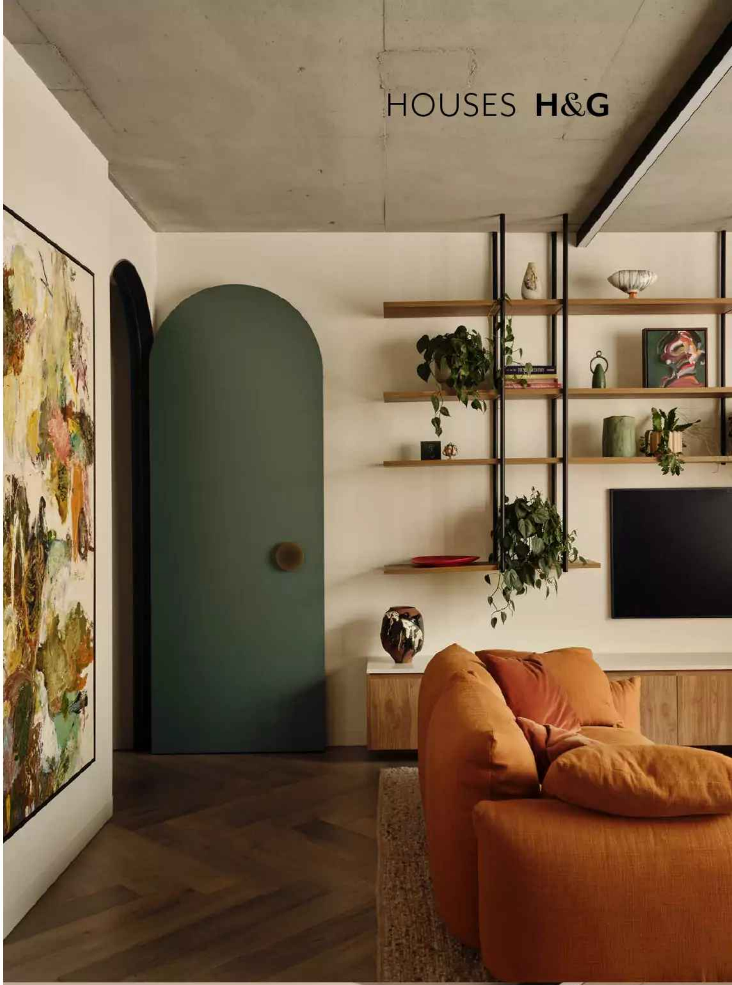
The character-filled apartment is layered with Dijana's and her family's collections and handmade treasures. "I love being surrounded by things that make me happy – pieces I've picked up travelling or that have been gifted. They sculpt the space and tell our story."

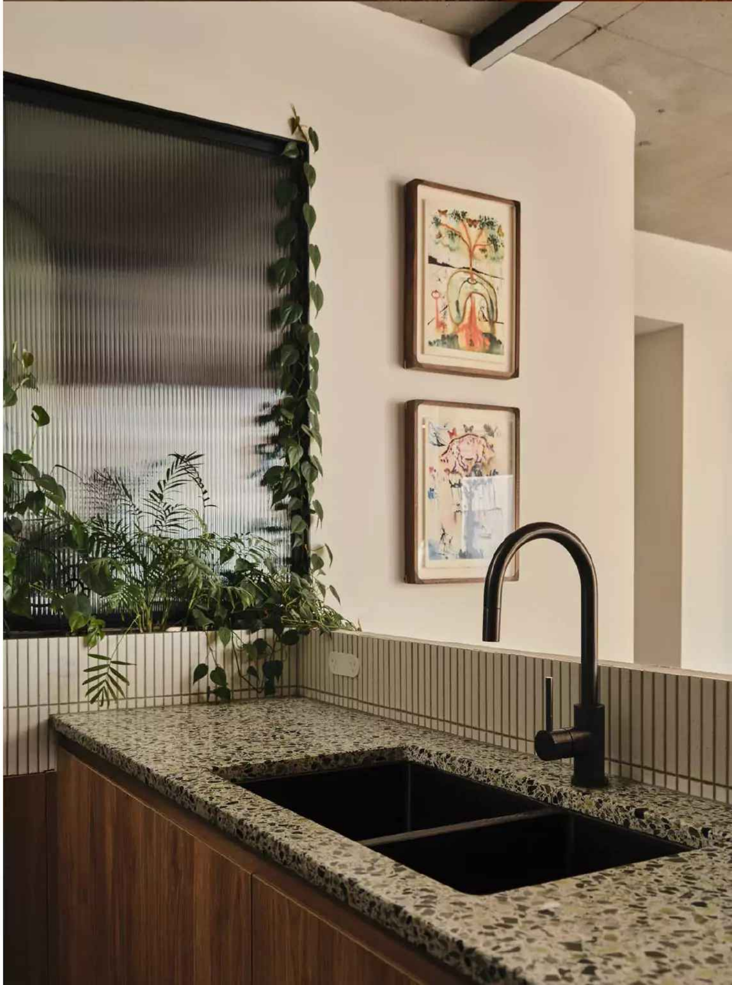
Colour is just as important to the former jeweller. "I wanted vibrancy but also peace," she explains. "It's a home, but it's also my creative playground."

Personality shows in detail like the chartreuse-flecked terrazzo and the joyful green marble mosaics. "The terrazzo was a must-have," she says. "It has that acid green running through it that I adore."

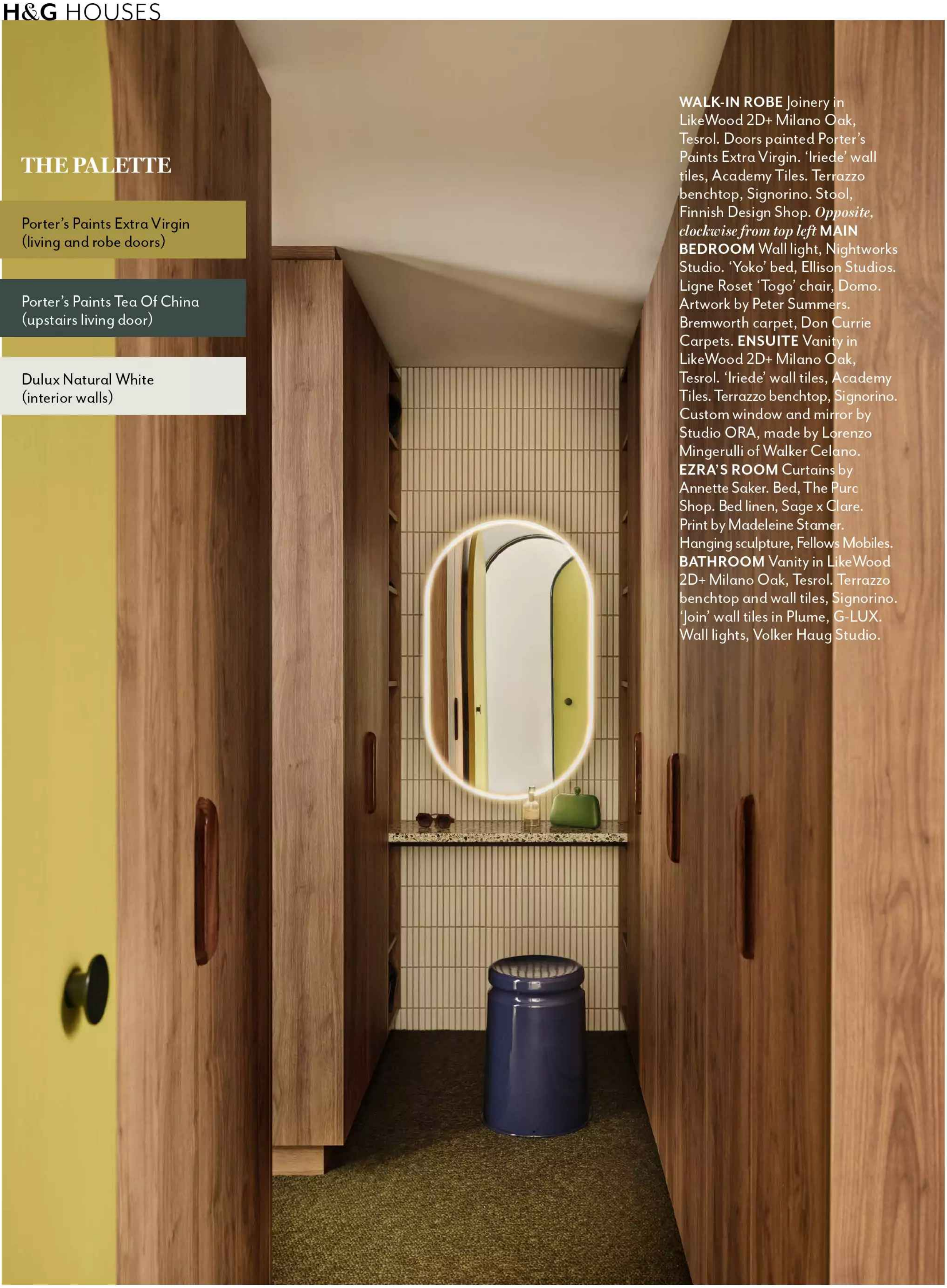
Plants, too, are intrinsic to the design. "Plants make me happy. They completely changed my mental health when we started filling the place with them." One particularly special cactus came from a relative's garden before their home was sold – "a little living heirloom", she says, smiling. ▶

***Studio ORA:*** *studio-ora.com.*





**FIRST FLOOR LIVING** *This page top and opposite, top* Door painted Porter's Paints Tea Of China. Custom handle, The Arc Dept. Large artwork by Roy Aurinko. Coffee table, Stylecraft. Side table, Collective. Floor lamp, Cult. Sabo Italia armchair, Bachli Furniture. 'Bam Bam' rug, Jardan. Timber sculpture (on wall) by Tilde Grynnerup. Artwork (on shelf) by Nunzio Miano. Ceramic vessel by Alana Wilson (left) and Theodosius Ng (right), Pépite. Engineered timber flooring, Made By Storey. **KITCHEN** *Right and opposite, bottom* Joinery in LikeWood 2D+ Milano Oak, Tesrol. Terrazzo benchtop, Signorino. Splashback and island surround in 'Iriede' finger tiles, Academy Tiles. Tapware, ABI Interiors. V-ZUG appliances, Winnings. Artwork (on shelf) by Ali McNabney-Stevens. Sculpture (on benchtop) by Stephanie Phillips, Pépite. Salvador Dalí lithographs (on wall). Engineered timber flooring, Made By Storey.



## THE PALETTE

Porter's Paints Extra Virgin
(living and robe doors)

Porter's Paints Tea Of China
(upstairs living door)

Dulux Natural White
(interior walls)

**WALK-IN ROBE** Joinery in LikeWood 2D+ Milano Oak, Tesrol. Doors painted Porter's Paints Extra Virgin. 'Iriede' wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Terrazzo benchtop, Signorino. Stool, Finnish Design Shop. *Opposite, clockwise from top left* **MAIN BEDROOM** Wall light, Nightworks Studio. 'Yoko' bed, Ellison Studios. Ligne Roset 'Togo' chair, Domo. Artwork by Peter Summers. Bremworth carpet, Don Currie Carpets. **ENSUITE** Vanity in LikeWood 2D+ Milano Oak, Tesrol. 'Iriede' wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Terrazzo benchtop, Signorino. Custom window and mirror by Studio ORA, made by Lorenzo Mingerulli of Walker Celano. **EZRA'S ROOM** Curtains by Annette Saker. Bed, The Pure Shop. Bed linen, Sage x Clare. Print by Madeleine Stamer. Hanging sculpture, Fellows Mobiles. **BATHROOM** Vanity in LikeWood 2D+ Milano Oak, Tesrol. Terrazzo benchtop and wall tiles, Signorino. 'Join' wall tiles in Plume, G-LUX. Wall lights, Volker Haug Studio.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

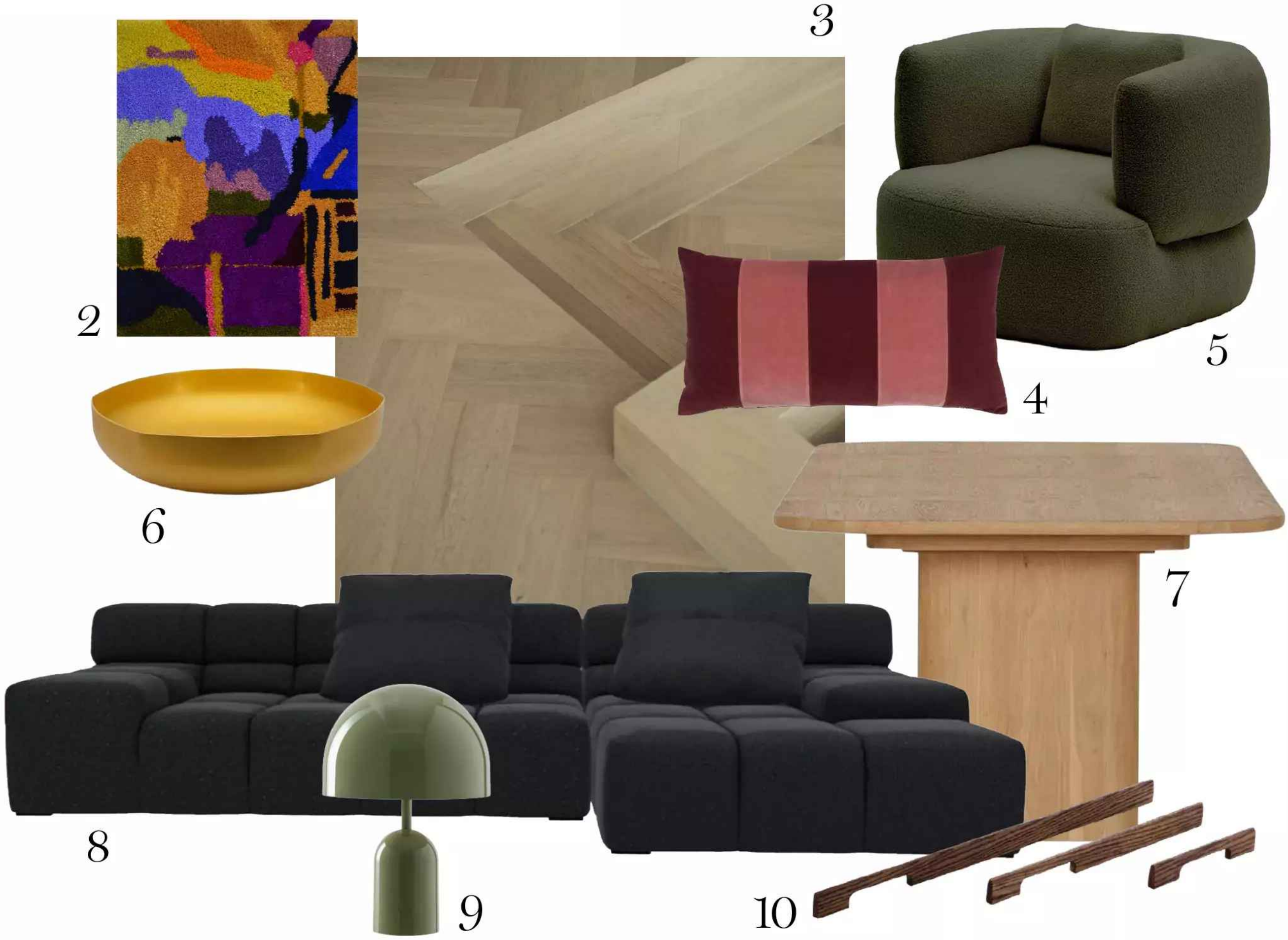
**HOME OFFICE** 'Pebble' desk, Made Studio. 'Alvo' chair by Jehs & Laub, Collective. Artwork by Johanna Valom, Studio Gallery. 'Bell' table lamp, Living Edge.

## THIS IS THE LIFE

The versatility of the apartment floor plan was always one of Dijana's favourite features. "What drew me to this home was the flexibility of the layout and the industrial feel," she says. "There was a lot of rawness in the retained concrete ceilings, and the way the balcony opened out into that private courtyard area felt really beautiful." The lower level, where Dijana opted to retain the concrete flooring, was a particularly adaptable space. "This area has been a bedroom, it's been a living space. Up until this year, it was my office. It always works," she says.

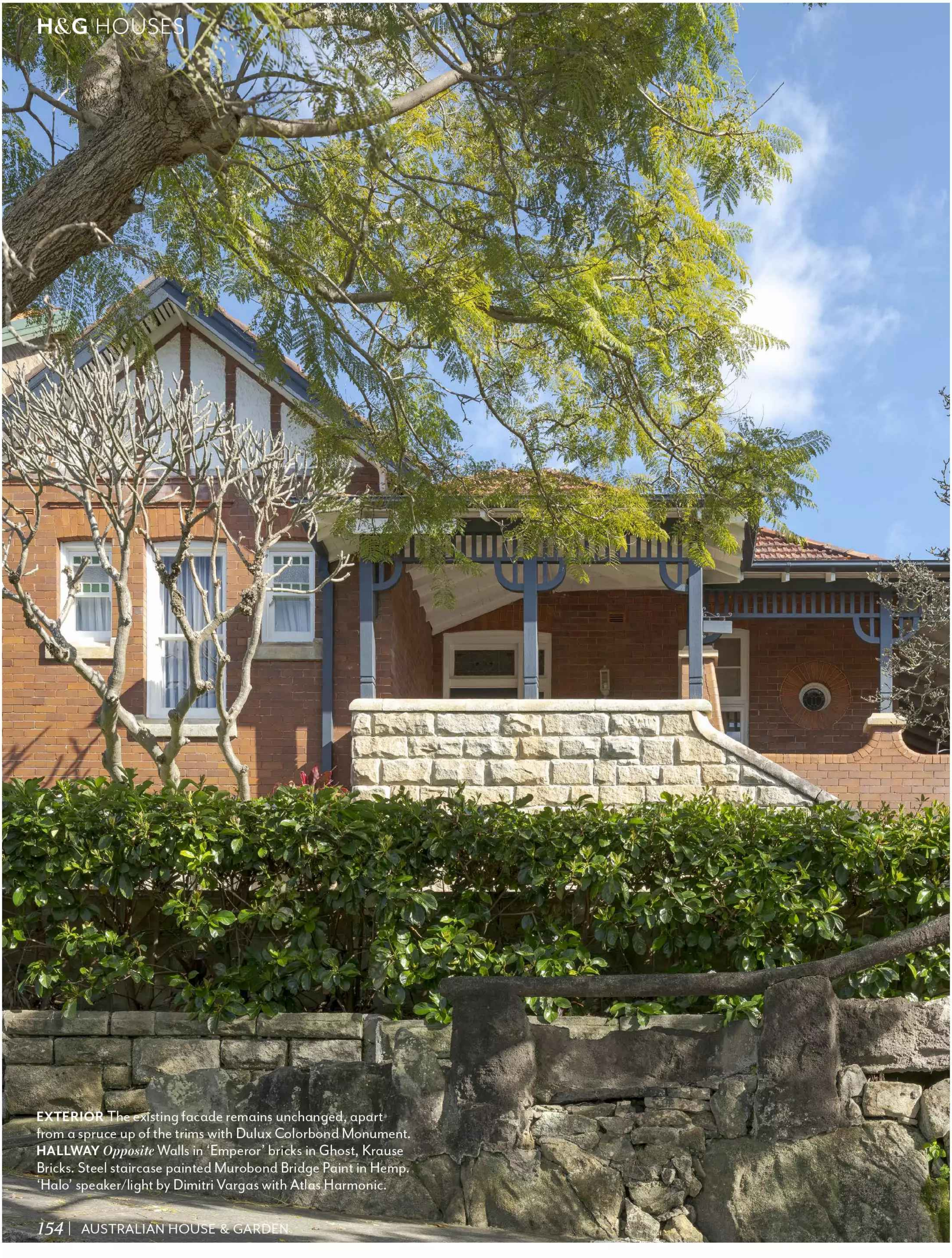
# THE SOURCE

*Bold shapes, graphic gestures and a cornucopia of colour.*

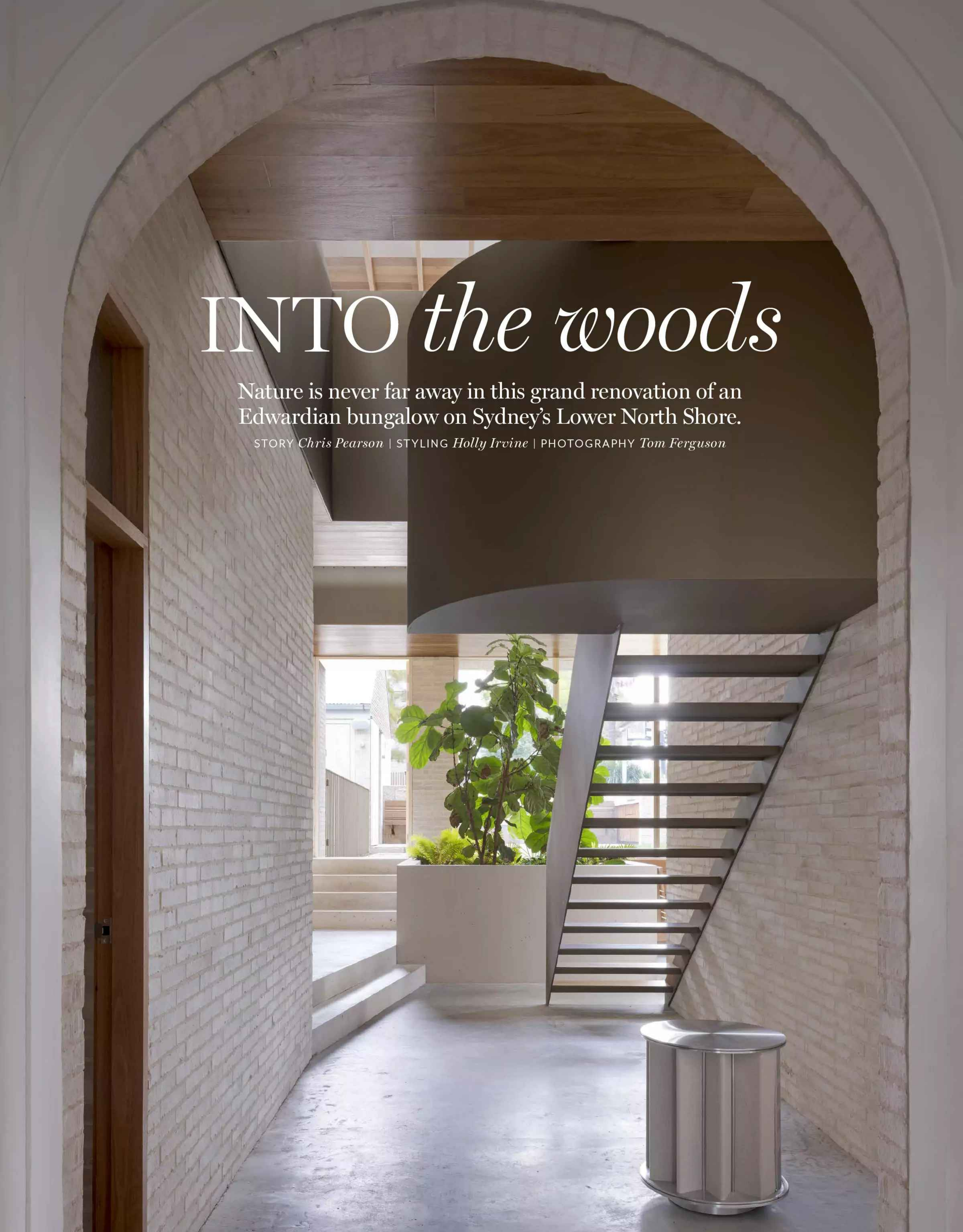


1 *Dancer in Terracotta* **sculpture** by Stephanie Phillips, $495, The DEA Store. 2 *Next Time* **artwork** in tufted merino wool and acrylic yarn (66x51cm), $1650, Studio Gallery. 3 Habitat herringbone **engineered timber** in Beach House, POA, Kustom Timber. 4 'Stripe' velvet **pillow** in Wine/Blush, $347, That Cool Living. 5 Kave Home 'Martina' **armchair** in Green, $2499, Life Interiors. 6 'Fink' **bowl** in Gold, $249.95, Make. 7 'Carmel' **dining table** in Blonde Natural, $4995, Coco Republic. 8 B&B Italia 'Tufty-Time' **sofa**, $23,940, Space. 9 'Bell' rechargeable **lamp** in Moss, $475, The Montauk Lighting Co. 10 Hesket Peak timber **handles**, from $68.41, Touch Handles. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.



**EXTERIOR** The existing facade remains unchanged, apart from a spruce up of the trims with Dulux Colorbond Monument. **HALLWAY** *Opposite* Walls in 'Emperor' bricks in Ghost, Krause Bricks. Steel staircase painted Murobond Bridge Paint in Hemp. 'Halo' speaker/light by Dimitri Vargas with Atlas Harmonic.



# INTO *the woods*

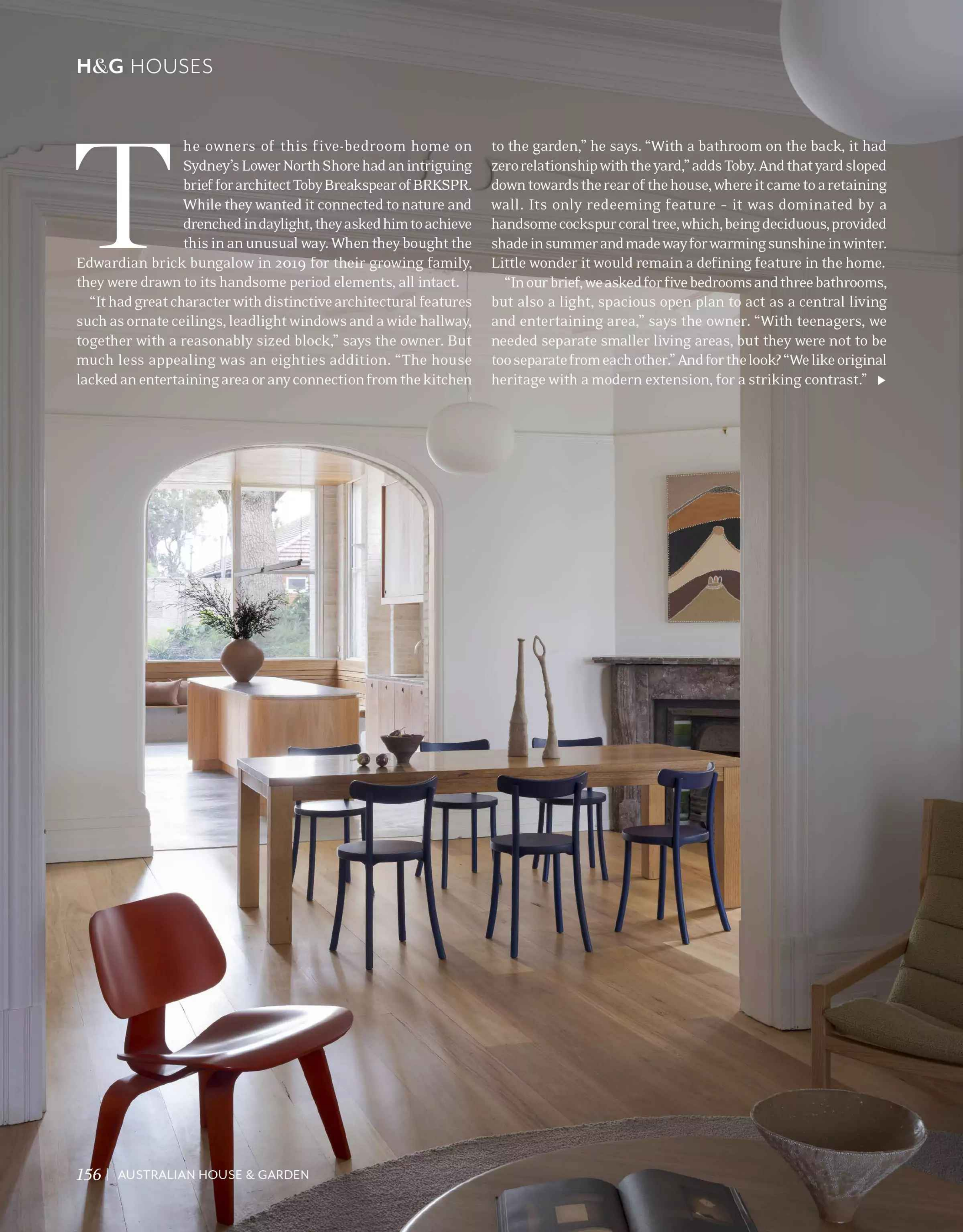
Nature is never far away in this grand renovation of an Edwardian bungalow on Sydney's Lower North Shore.

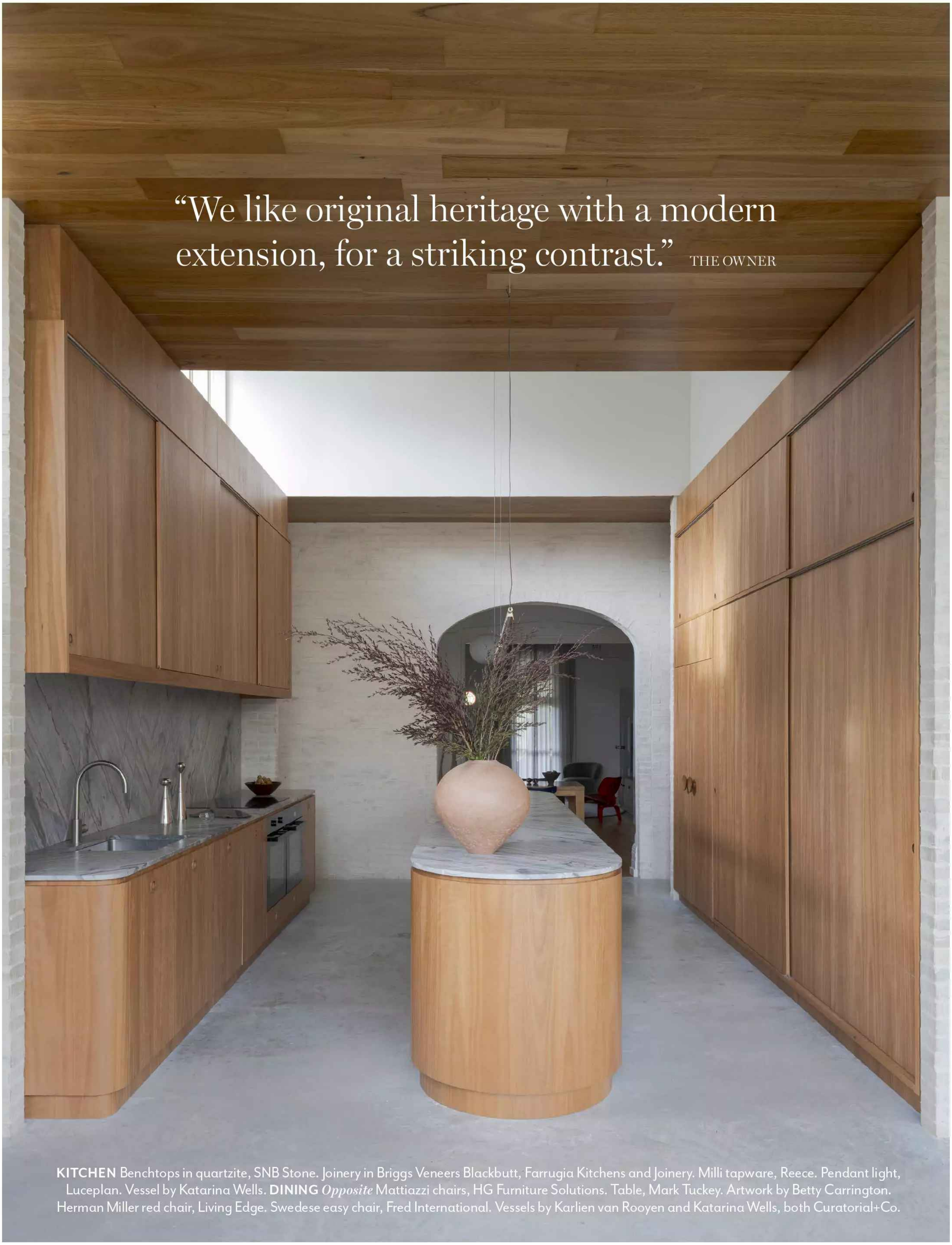
STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Holly Irvine* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Tom Ferguson*

The owners of this five-bedroom home on Sydney's Lower North Shore had an intriguing brief for architect Toby Breakspear of BRKSPR. While they wanted it connected to nature and drenched in daylight, they asked him to achieve this in an unusual way. When they bought the Edwardian brick bungalow in 2019 for their growing family, they were drawn to its handsome period elements, all intact.

"It had great character with distinctive architectural features such as ornate ceilings, leadlight windows and a wide hallway, together with a reasonably sized block," says the owner. But much less appealing was an eighties addition. "The house lacked an entertaining area or any connection from the kitchen to the garden," he says. "With a bathroom on the back, it had zero relationship with the yard," adds Toby. And that yard sloped down towards the rear of the house, where it came to a retaining wall. Its only redeeming feature – it was dominated by a handsome cockspur coral tree, which, being deciduous, provided shade in summer and made way for warming sunshine in winter. Little wonder it would remain a defining feature in the home.

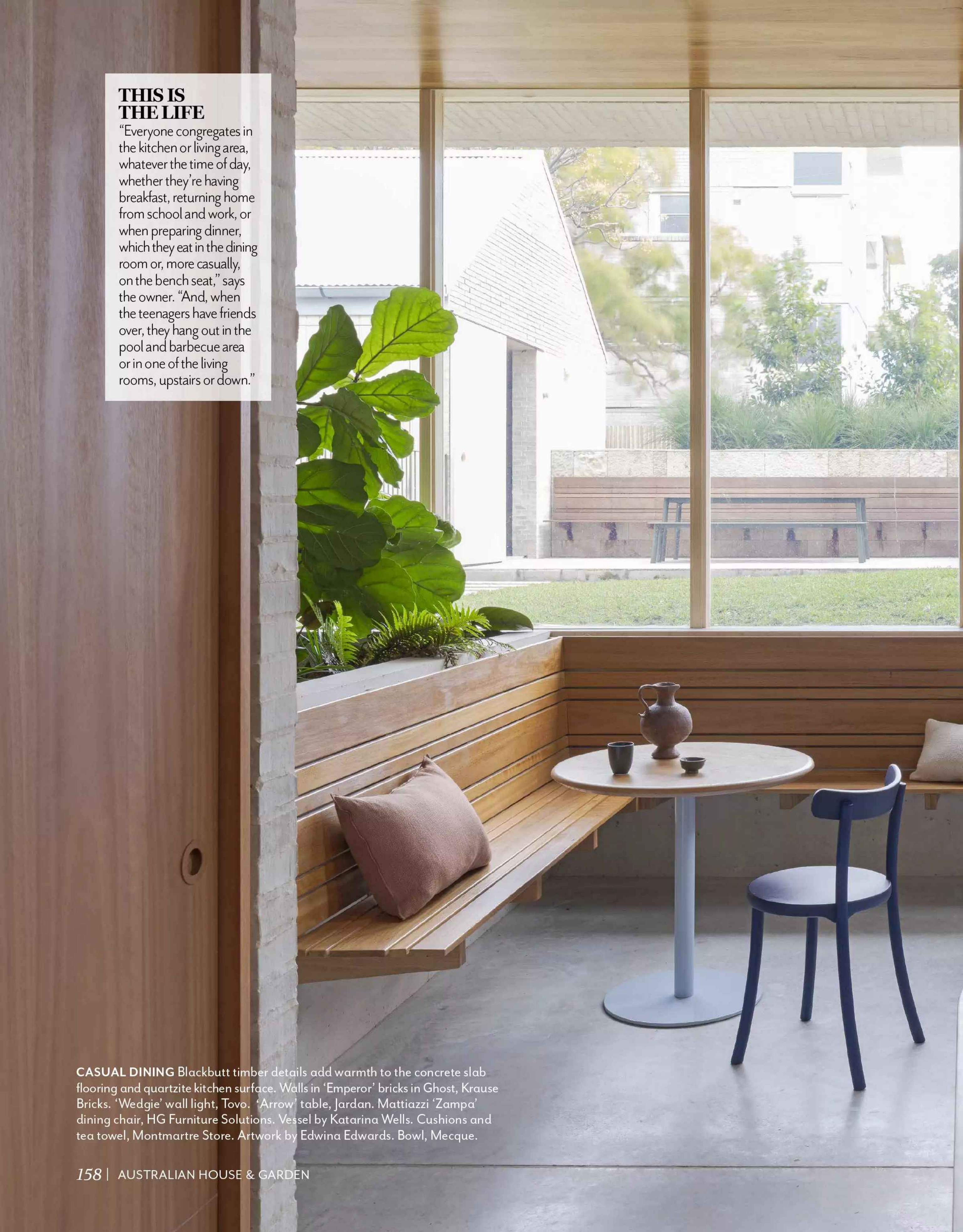
"In our brief, we asked for five bedrooms and three bathrooms, but also a light, spacious open plan to act as a central living and entertaining area," says the owner. "With teenagers, we needed separate smaller living areas, but they were not to be too separate from each other." And for the look? "We like original heritage with a modern extension, for a striking contrast." ▶





> “We like original heritage with a modern extension, for a striking contrast.” THE OWNER

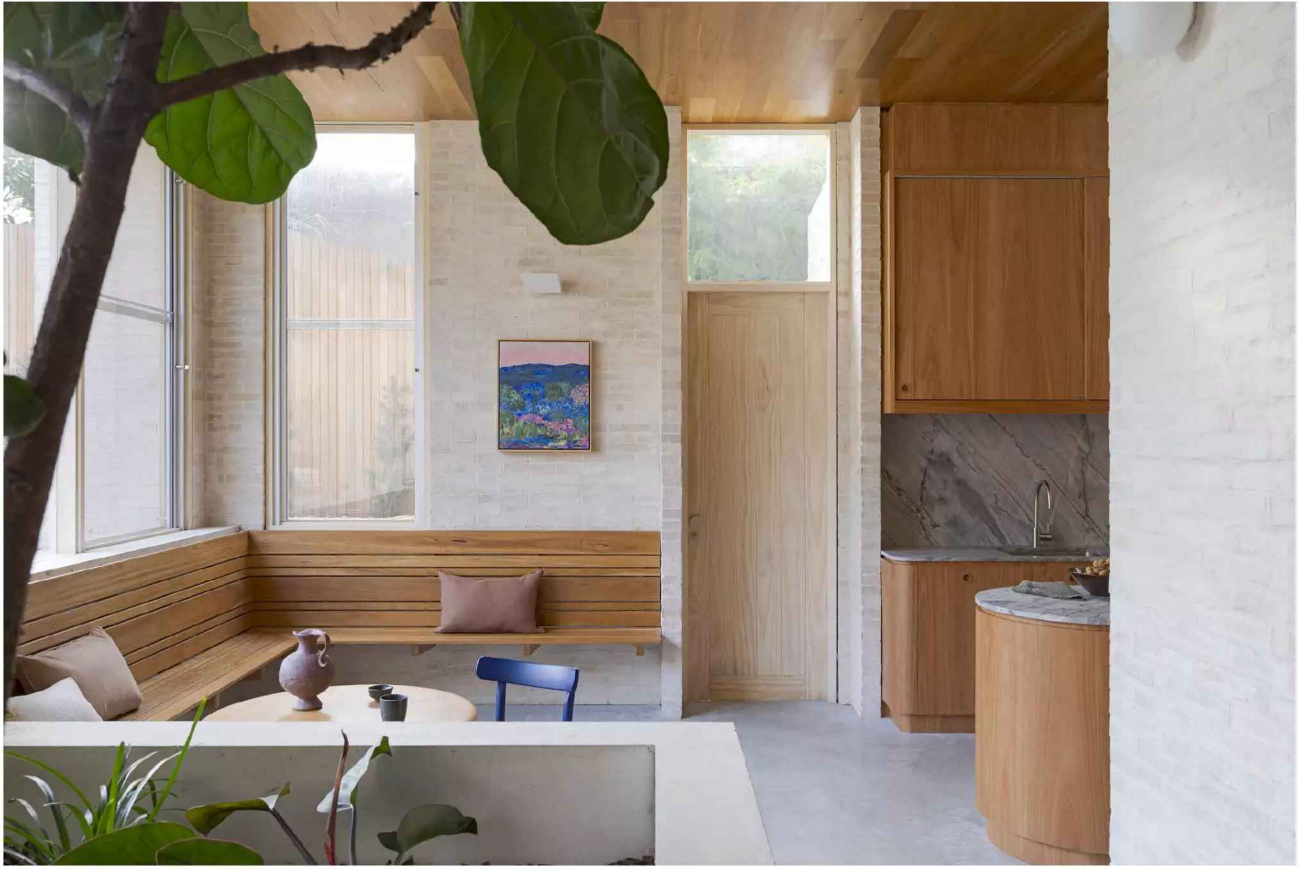
**KITCHEN** Benchtops in quartzite, SNB Stone. Joinery in Briggs Veneers Blackbutt, Farrugia Kitchens and Joinery. Milli tapware, Reece. Pendant light, Luceplan. Vessel by Katarina Wells. **DINING** *Opposite* Mattiazzi chairs, HG Furniture Solutions. Table, Mark Tuckey. Artwork by Betty Carrington. Herman Miller red chair, Living Edge. Swedese easy chair, Fred International. Vessels by Karlien van Rooyen and Katarina Wells, both Curatorial+Co.



## THIS IS THE LIFE

"Everyone congregates in the kitchen or living area, whatever the time of day, whether they're having breakfast, returning home from school and work, or when preparing dinner, which they eat in the dining room or, more casually, on the bench seat," says the owner. "And, when the teenagers have friends over, they hang out in the pool and barbecue area or in one of the living rooms, upstairs or down."

**CASUAL DINING** Blackbutt timber details add warmth to the concrete slab flooring and quartzite kitchen surface. Walls in 'Emperor' bricks in Ghost, Krause Bricks. 'Wedgie' wall light, Tovo. 'Arrow' table, Jardan. Mattiazzi 'Zampa' dining chair, HG Furniture Solutions. Vessel by Katarina Wells. Cushions and tea towel, Montmartre Store. Artwork by Edwina Edwards. Bowl, Mecque.



Giving the front just a simple spruce up, Toby then replaced the clumsy rear extension with a smart two-storey addition. While the original section of the house includes four bedrooms down one side of the hallway and a formal living and dining to the right, it opens up to a new light-filled open plan overlooking the garden, with a built-in bench along three walls and a large planter in the middle with a void above. Upstairs are a communal media and study space for the teenagers and a main bedroom suite across the void, where a robe under the home's original roofline is reached through a tunnel. "The roof height was restricted to the original cavity by planning regulations, but this has created such a fun way to enter the walk-in," says Toby.

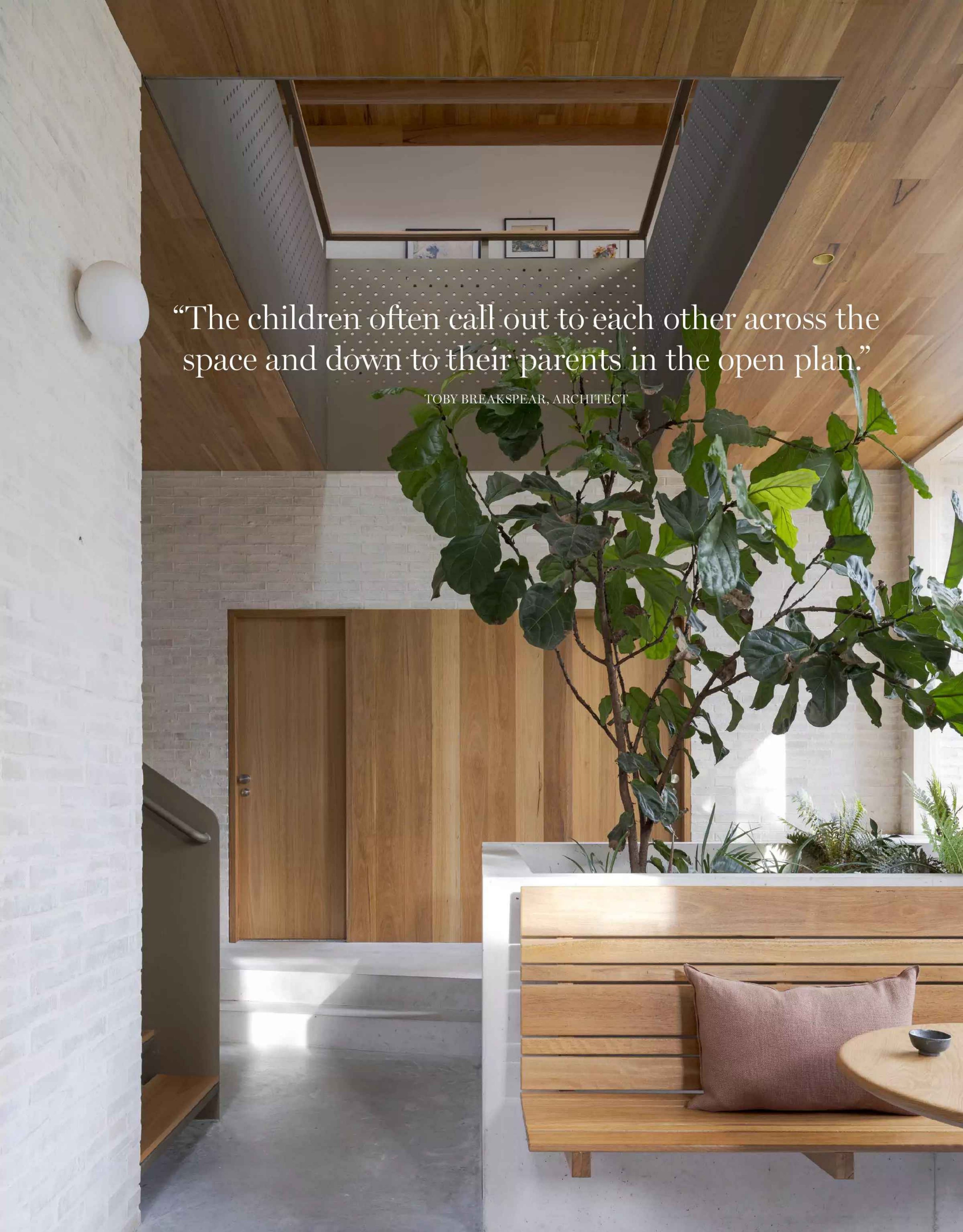
The owner asked for indoor-outdoor connection, but not with the more conventional walls of sliding glass or bi-folds, which would have been tricky because of the steeply sloping yard. Atypically, the whole back is fixed panels with a simple sash window to one side, so the family are cosy and part of the landscape but also have a sense of separation. "They are happy to be connected to the garden, but not be completely part of it. You feel nestled against the garden, but not sitting in it," says Toby. He has brought the garden to the windows at mid height, where it can be enjoyed from the built-in bench. A pergola, barbecue area and pool along the back boundary provide the full outdoor experience. Meanwhile, the laundry at the side doubles as a mudroom for active teenagers. They also make full use of the media-study space poised above the open plan, which fosters a sense of communality. "The children often call out to each other across the space and down to their parents in the open plan below," explains Toby.

Inside, earthy materials, including the concrete slab, brick walls reprising the exterior and blackbutt – in the joinery, bench seat and the ceiling – tie the new spaces to the natural world, while ensuring warmth and cosiness. "The new addition does a lot of work," says Toby. "While it's compact, that void gives it a generosity. And there are little surprise moments, with lots of level changes and even harbour views."

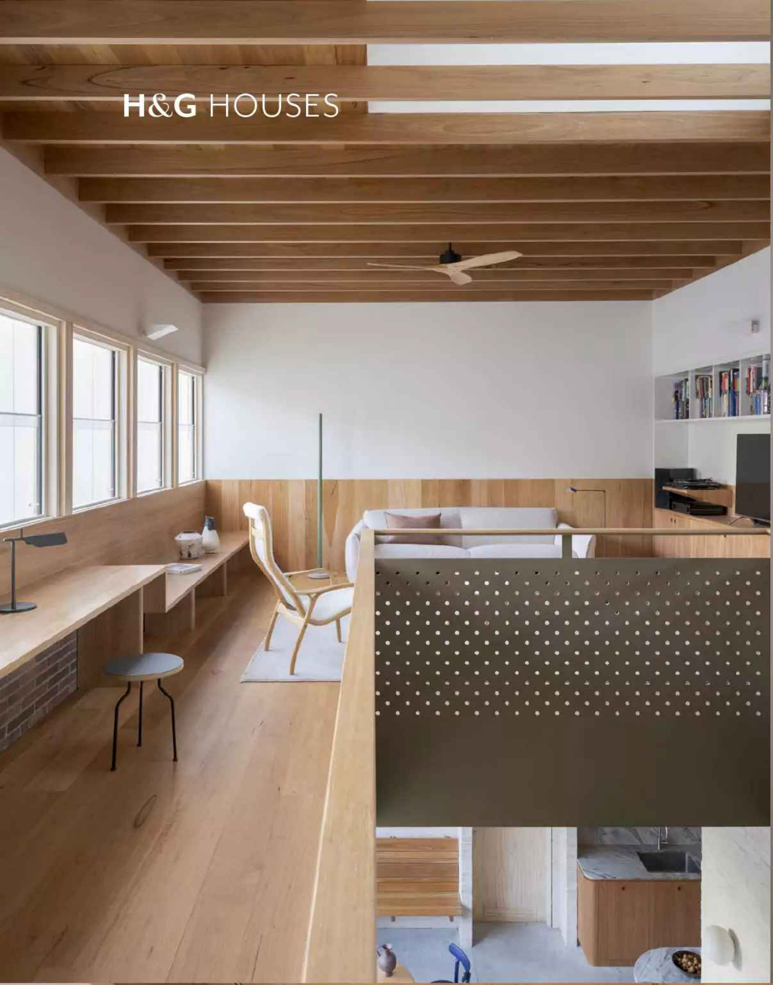
"We are so happy with the result," adds the owner. "It's a unique house that perfectly suits our family. We love spending time in this oasis from our busy lives." ▶

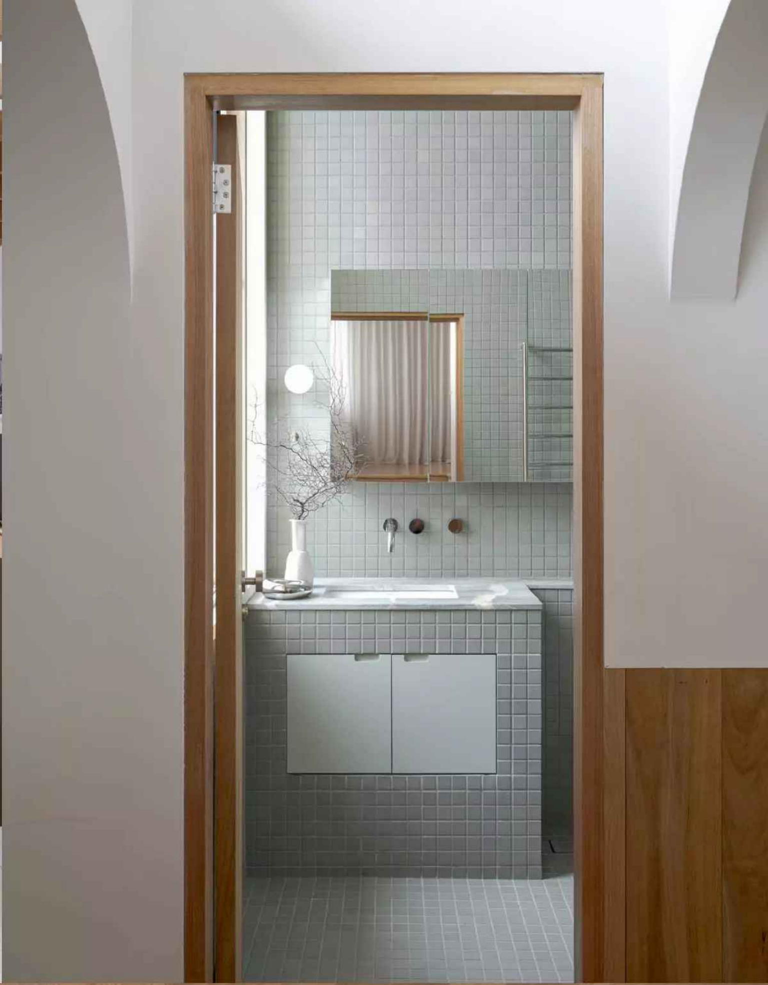
***BRKSPR:** brkspr.com. **Woodco Constructions:** woodco.net.au.*

**CASUAL DINING/KITCHEN** *Above* Walls in 'Emperor' bricks in Ghost, Krause Bricks. 'Wedgie' wall light, Tovo. Artwork by Edwina Edwards. 'Arrow' table, Jardan. Mattiazzi 'Zampa' dining chair, HG Furniture Solutions. Vessel by Katarina Wells. Cushions and tea towel, Montmartre Store. Bowl, Mecque. *Opposite* A fiddle leaf fig (*Ficus lyrata*) divides the hall and open plan. Flos 'Glo-Ball' wall light, Euroluce.

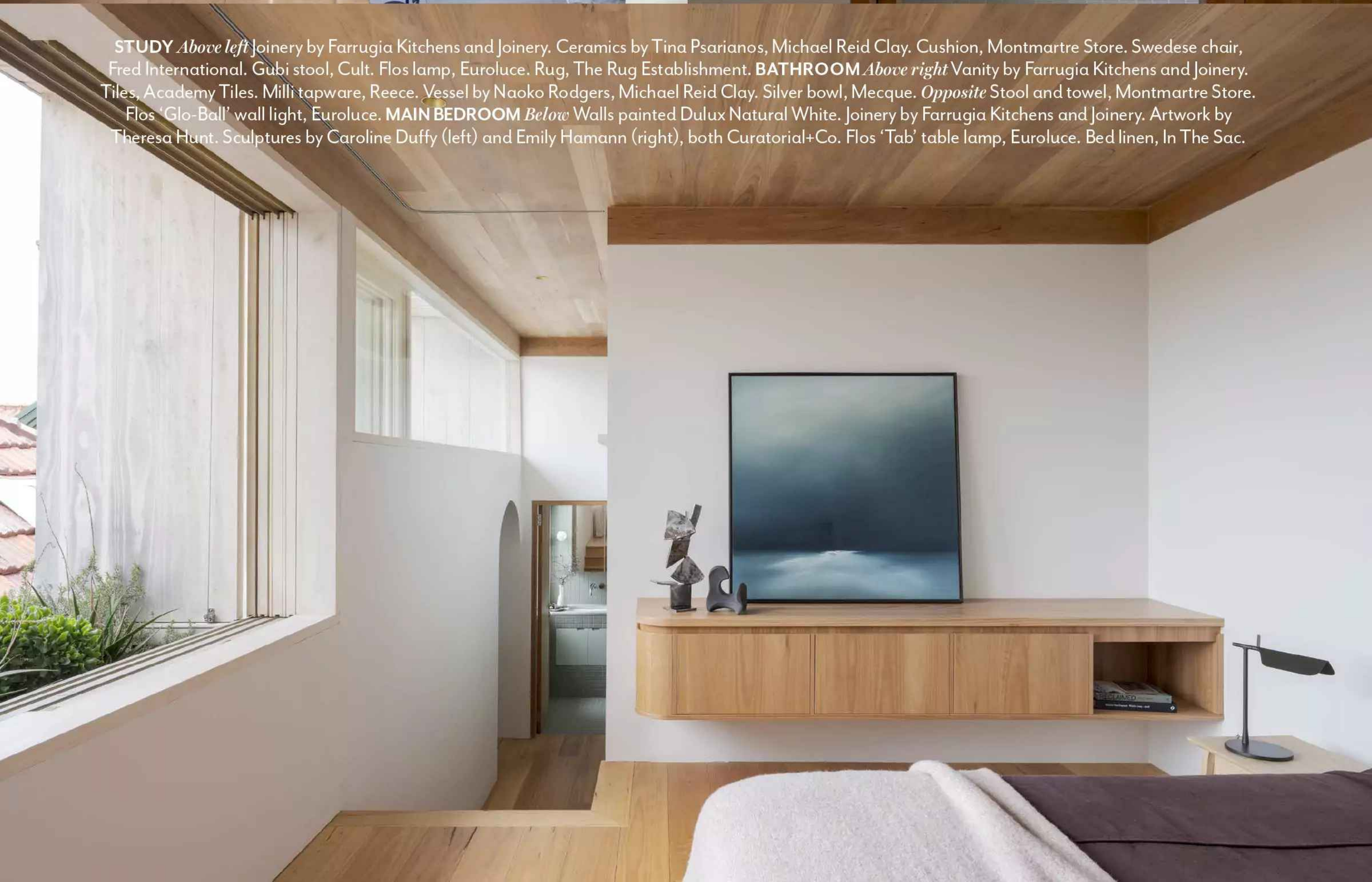


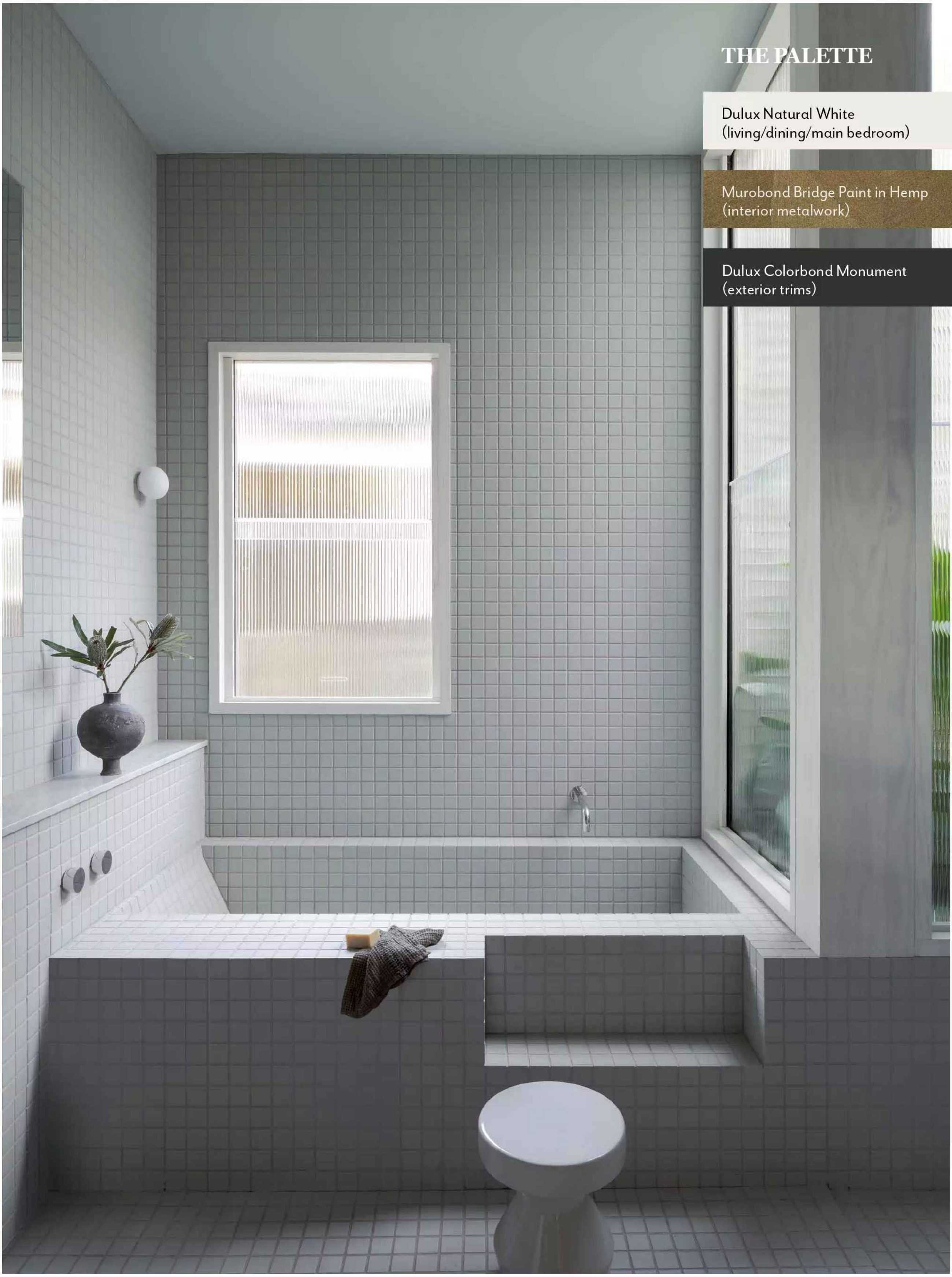
> “The children often call out to each other across the space and down to their parents in the open plan.”
>
> TOBY BREAKSPEAR, ARCHITECT





**STUDY** *Above left* Joinery by Farrugia Kitchens and Joinery. Ceramics by Tina Psarianos, Michael Reid Clay. Cushion, Montmartre Store. Swedese chair, Fred International. Gubi stool, Cult. Flos lamp, Euroluce. Rug, The Rug Establishment. **BATHROOM** *Above right* Vanity by Farrugia Kitchens and Joinery. Tiles, Academy Tiles. Milli tapware, Reece. Vessel by Naoko Rodgers, Michael Reid Clay. Silver bowl, Mecque. *Opposite* Stool and towel, Montmartre Store. Flos 'Glo-Ball' wall light, Euroluce. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Below* Walls painted Dulux Natural White. Joinery by Farrugia Kitchens and Joinery. Artwork by Theresa Hunt. Sculptures by Caroline Duffy (left) and Emily Hamann (right), both Curatorial+Co. Flos 'Tab' table lamp, Euroluce. Bed linen, In The Sac.





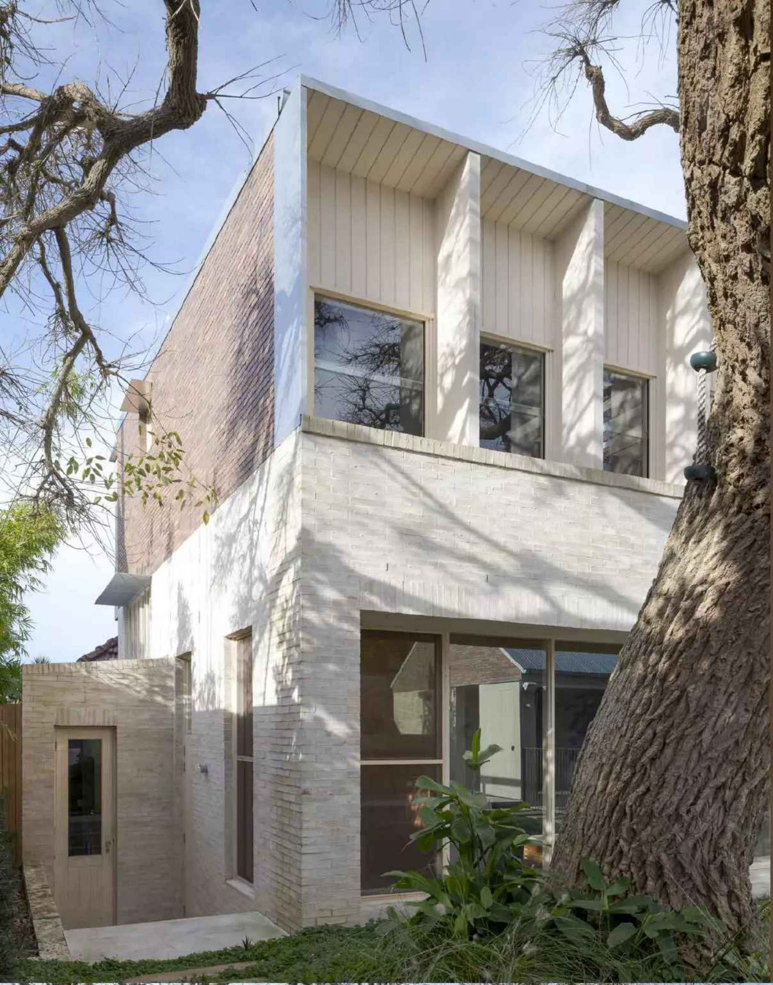
## THE PALETTE

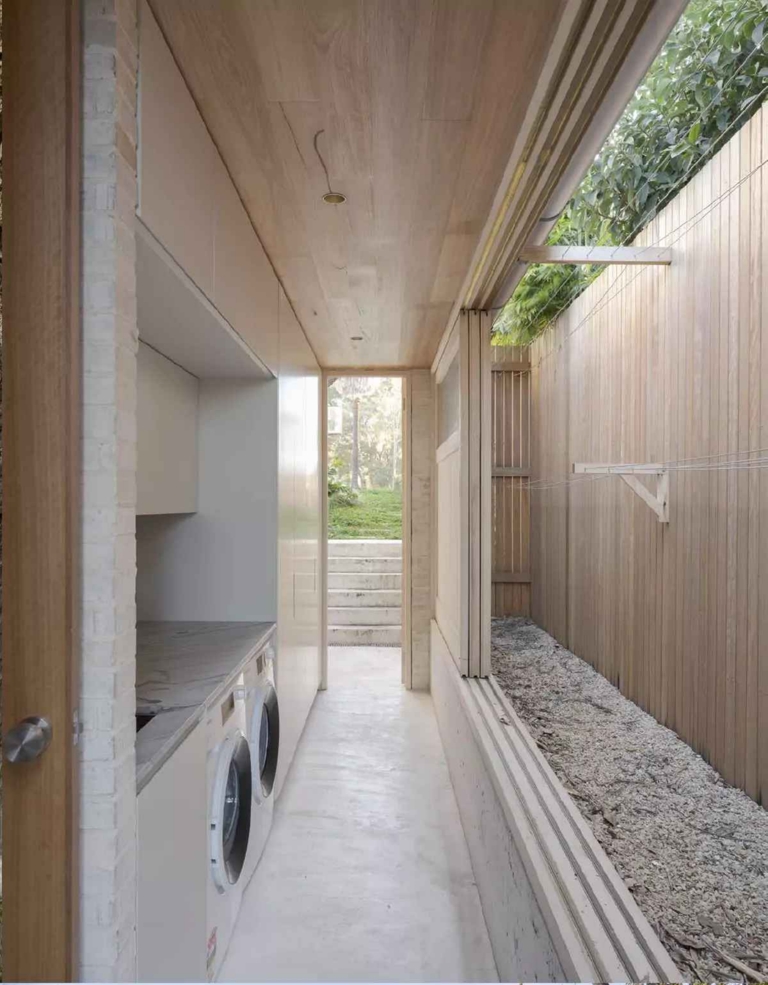
Dulux Natural White
(living/dining/main bedroom)

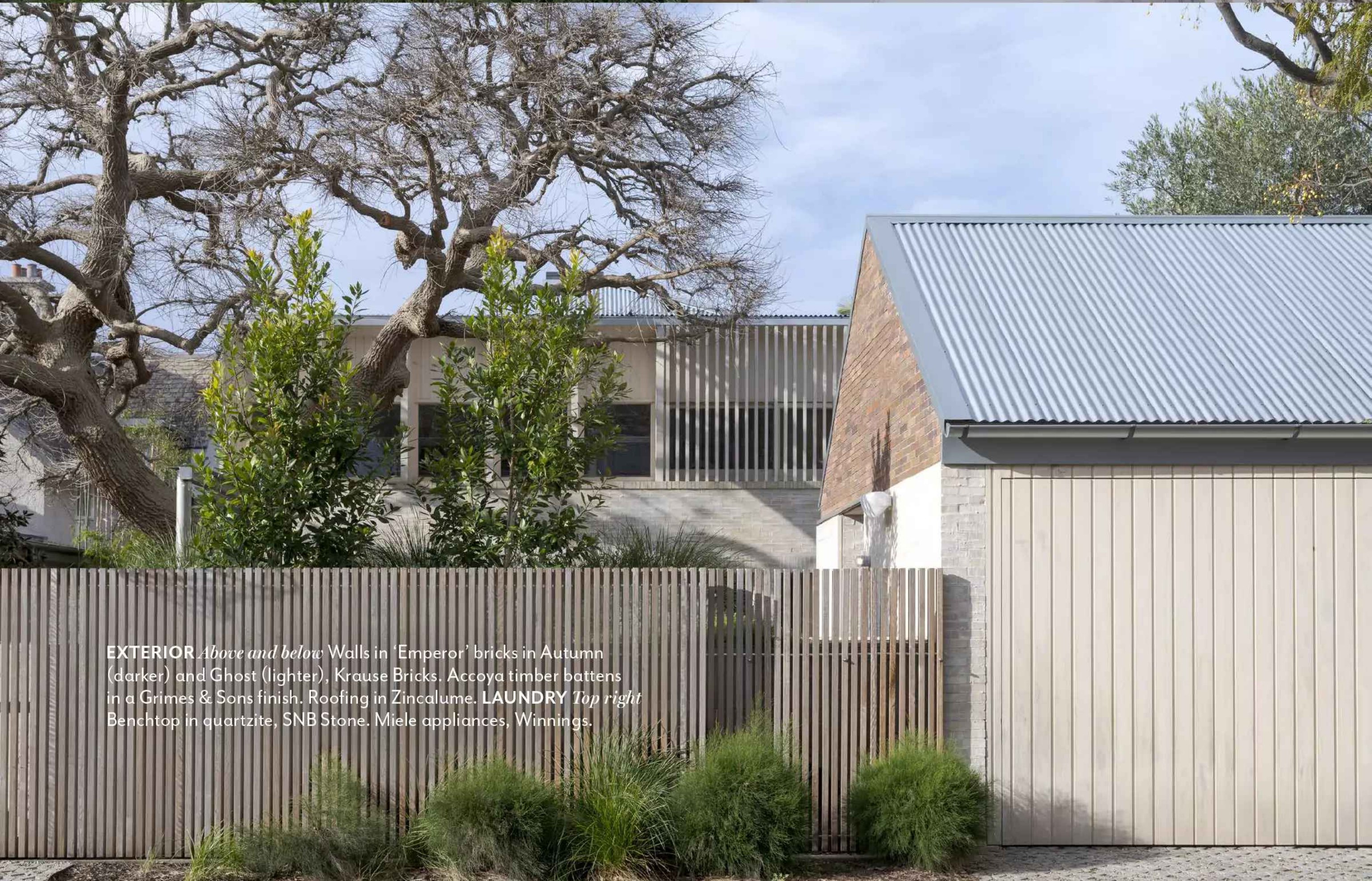
Murobond Bridge Paint in Hemp
(interior metalwork)

Dulux Colorbond Monument
(exterior trims)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



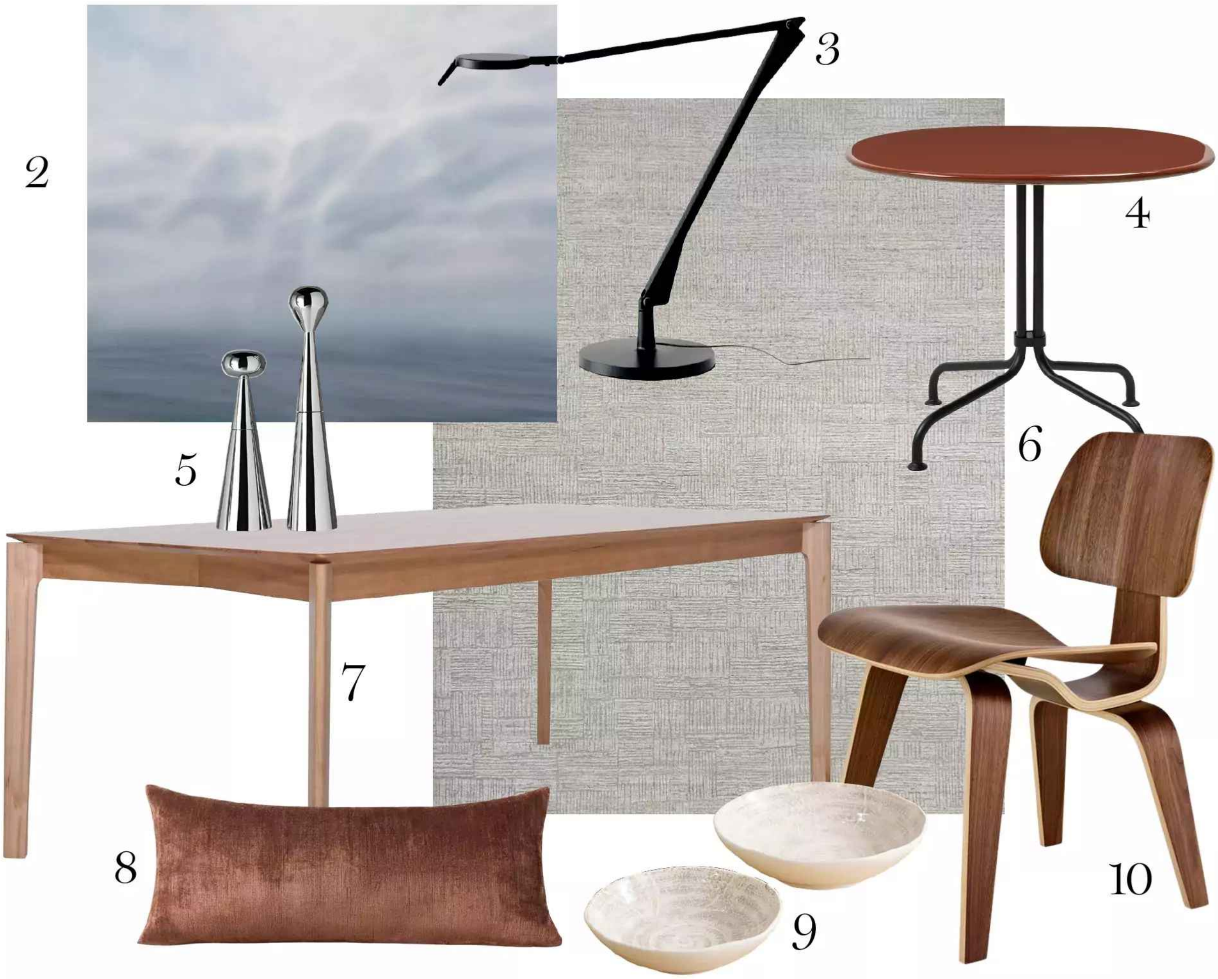




**EXTERIOR** *Above and below* Walls in 'Emperor' bricks in Autumn (darker) and Ghost (lighter), Krause Bricks. Accoya timber battens in a Grimes & Sons finish. Roofing in Zincalume. **LAUNDRY** *Top right* Benchtop in quartzite, SNB Stone. Miele appliances, Winnings.

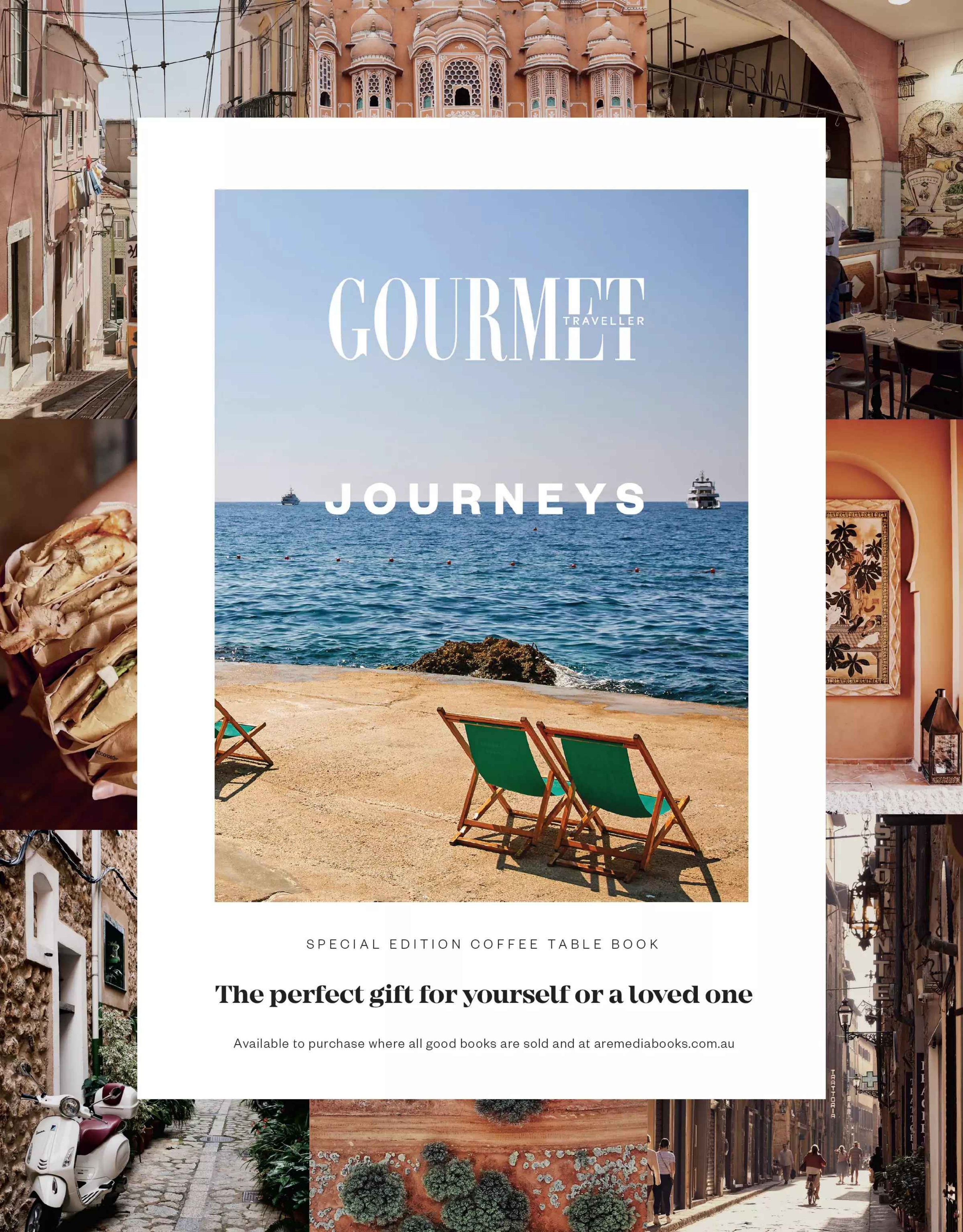
# THE SOURCE

*Timber tones add warmth to contemporary minimalism.*



1 *Obscurus* **sculpture** by Emily Hamann, $1050, Curatorial+Co. 2 *Sea in Greys 3* **artwork** by Chris Langlois, $17,000, Olsen Gallery. 3 Kartell 'Aledin Tec' **desk lamp**, $695, Space. 4 Gubi 'Carmel' bistro lounge **table** in Rock Red, $3499, Cult. 5 Tom Dixon mill grinders, from $245 each, Top3. 6 'Charlie' **rug** in Bone (270x180cm), $2360, Hali. 7 'Avoca' **dining table** (210cm), $2199, OZ Design. 8 'Talik' velvet lumbar **cushion cover** in Chestnut, $90, Cultiver. 9 Brunelli Cucinelli glazed ceramic **bowls** in Off-white, $351.78/two, Net-A-Porter. 10 Herman Miller 'Eames' moulded plywood **chair**, $2965, Living Edge. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.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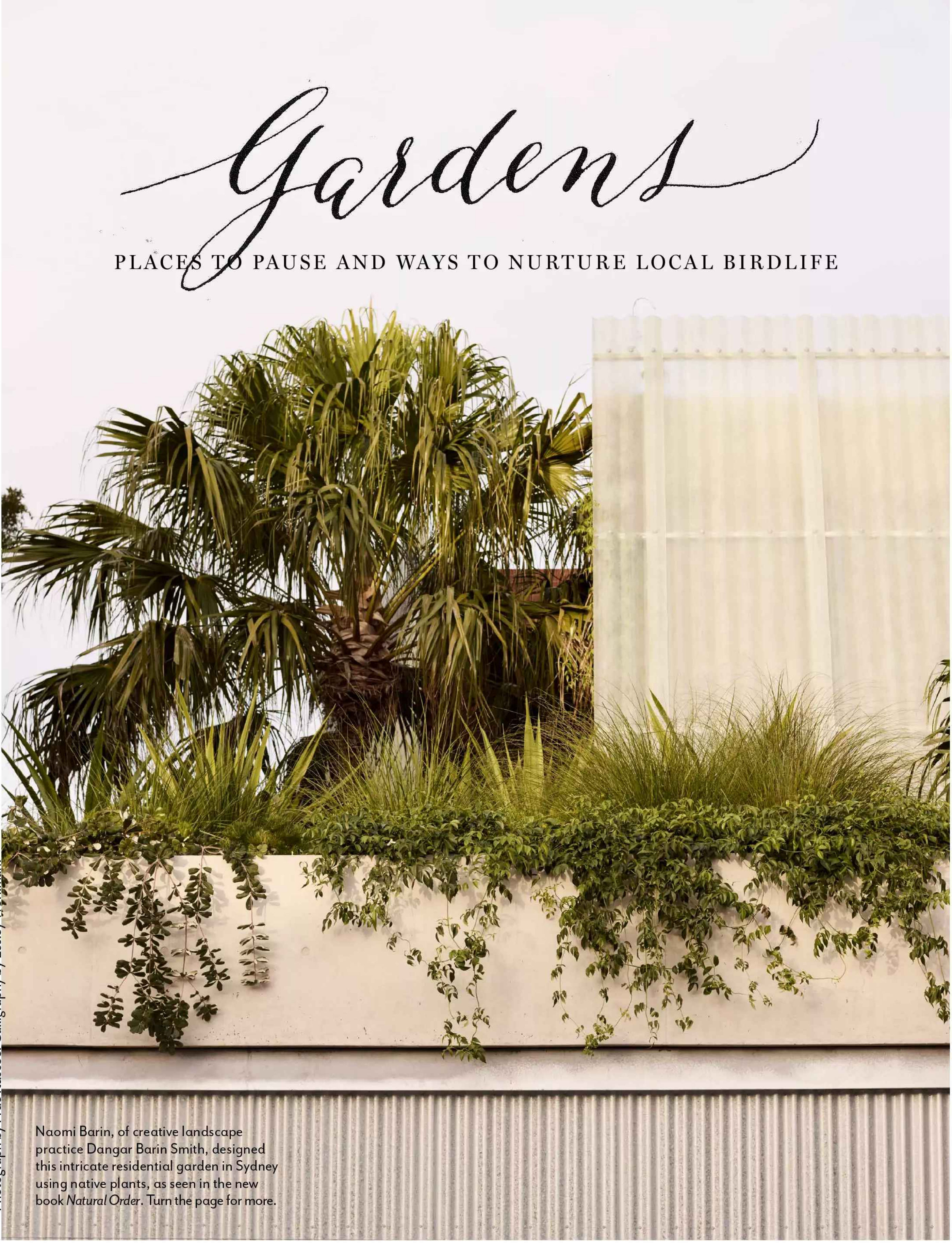
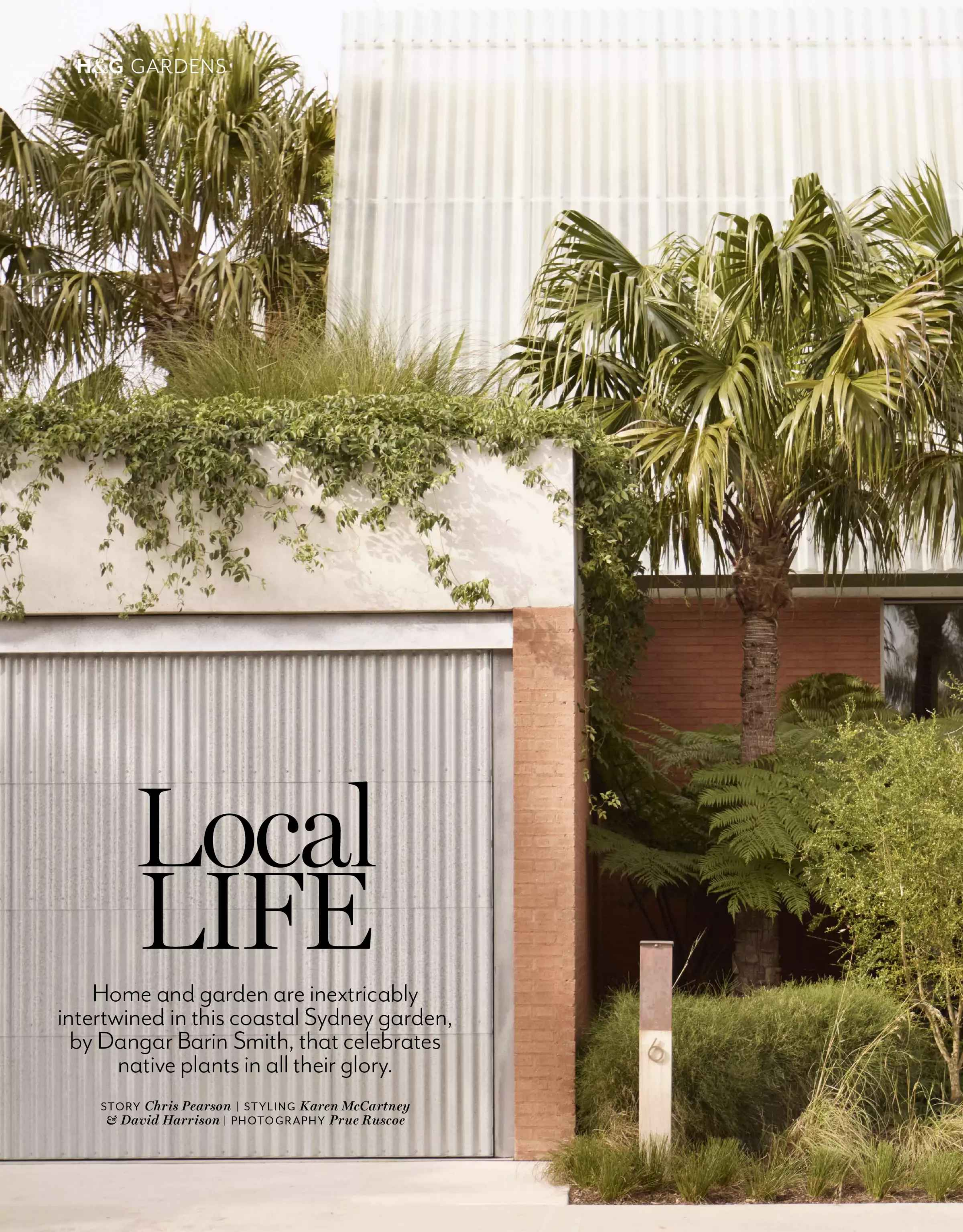
# Gardens

## PLACES TO PAUSE AND WAYS TO NURTURE LOCAL BIRDLIFE



Naomi Barin, of creative landscape practice Dangar Barin Smith, designed this intricate residential garden in Sydney using native plants, as seen in the new book *Natural Order*. Turn the page for more.

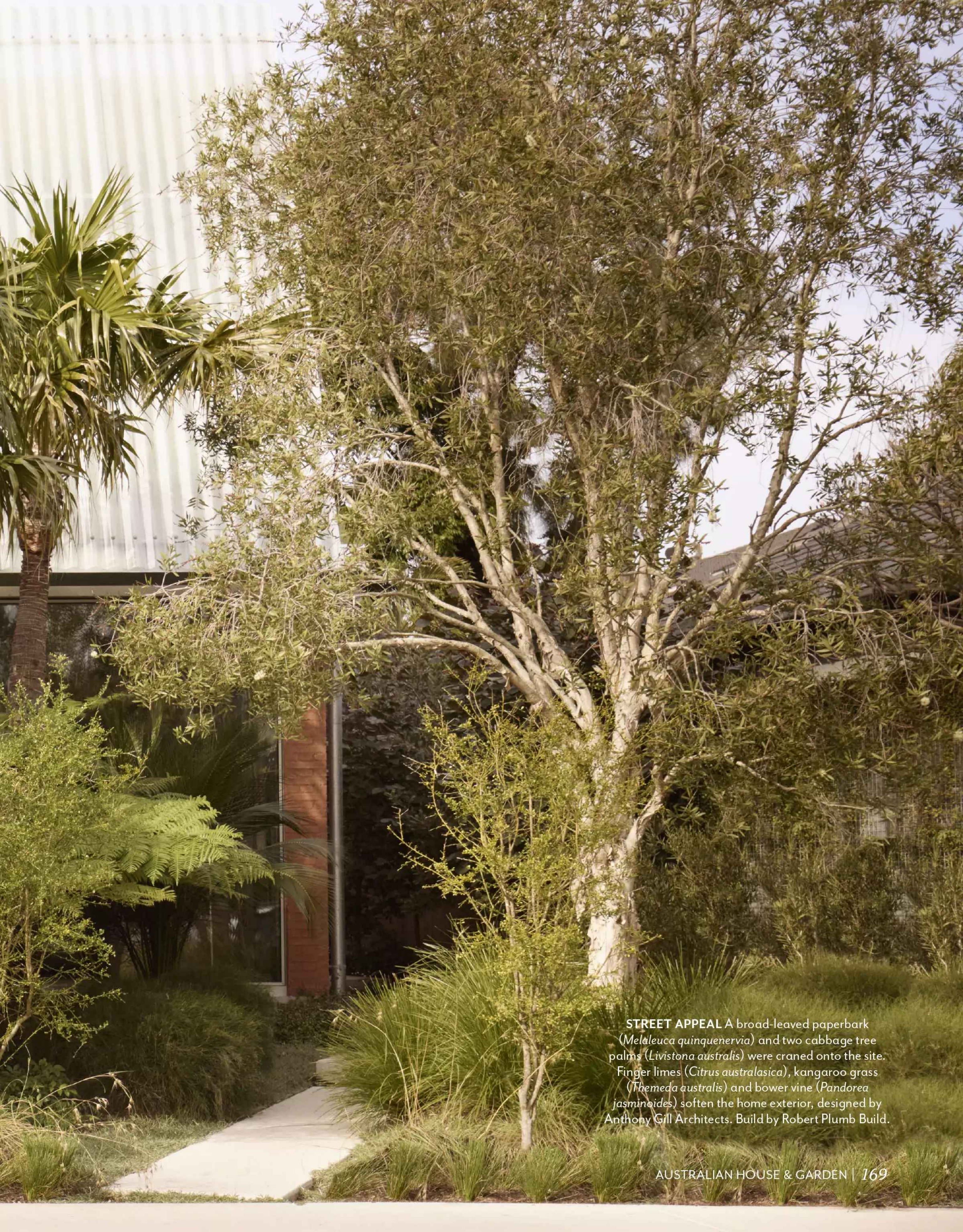
Photograph by Prue Ruscoe. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.



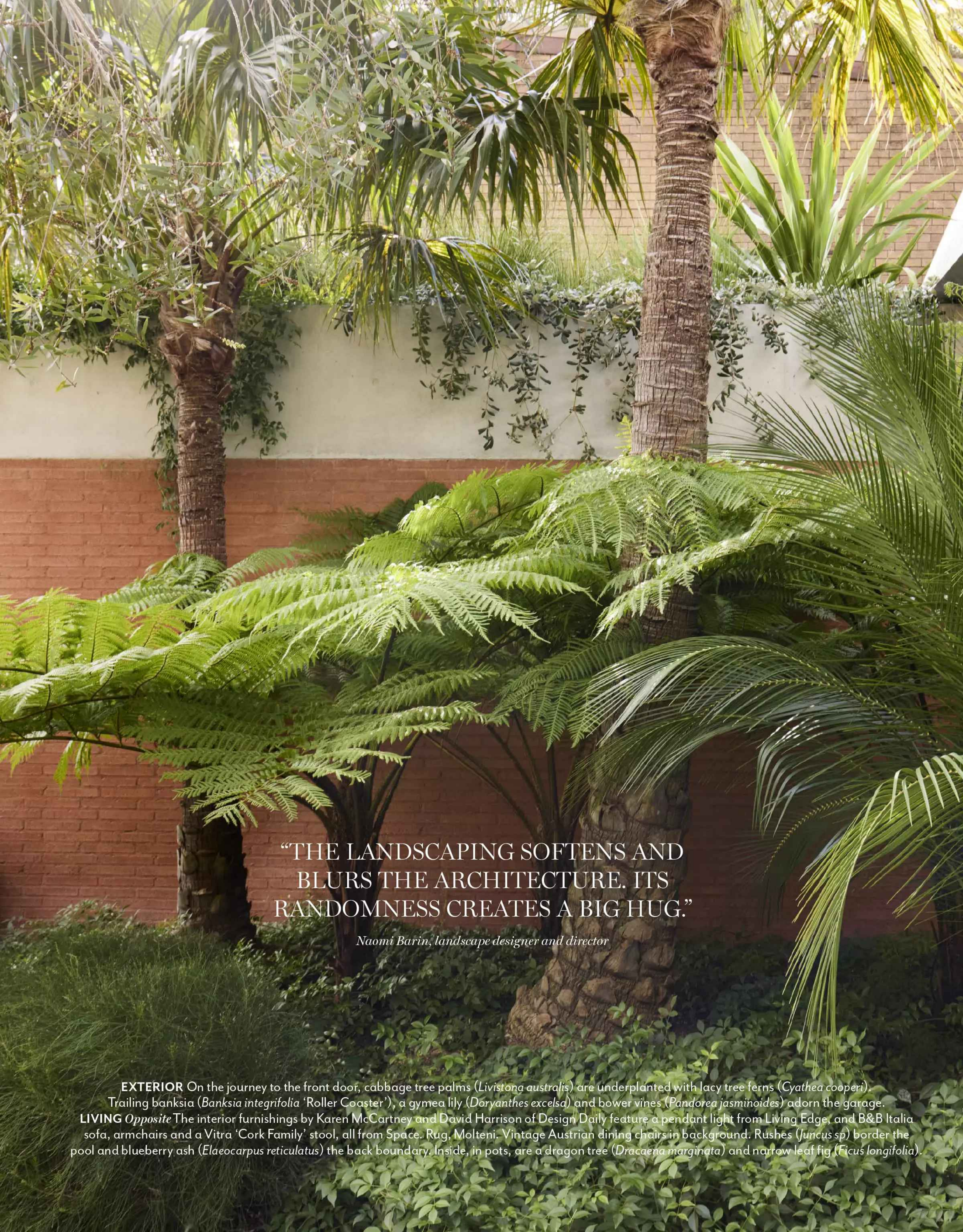
# Local LIFE

Home and garden are inextricably intertwined in this coastal Sydney garden, by Dangar Barin Smith, that celebrates native plants in all their glory.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Karen McCartney & David Harrison* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



**STREET APPEAL** A broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and two cabbage tree palms (*Livistona australis*) were craned onto the site. Finger limes (*Citrus australasica*), kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*) and bower vine (*Pandorea jasminoides*) soften the home exterior, designed by Anthony Gill Architects. Build by Robert Plumb Build.



> “THE LANDSCAPING SOFTENS AND BLURS THE ARCHITECTURE. ITS RANDOMNESS CREATES A BIG HUG.”
>
> *Naomi Barin, landscape designer and director*

**EXTERIOR** On the journey to the front door, cabbage tree palms (*Livistona australis*) are underplanted with lacy tree ferns (*Cyathea cooperi*). Trailing banksia (*Banksia integrifolia* ‘Roller Coaster’), a gymea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) and bower vines (*Pandorea jasminoides*) adorn the garage.
**LIVING** *Opposite* The interior furnishings by Karen McCartney and David Harrison of Design Daily feature a pendant light from Living Edge, and B&B Italia sofa, armchairs and a Vitra ‘Cork Family’ stool, all from Space. Rug, Molteni. Vintage Austrian dining chairs in background. Rushes (*Juncus sp*) border the pool and blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) the back boundary. Inside, in pots, are a dragon tree (*Dracaena marginata*) and narrow leaf fig (*Ficus longifolia*).

With its lush street frontage of foliage reaching upwards, downwards and sideways, including a lofty paperbark, cabbage palms and a garage festooned with bower vines, this green space in Sydney's east was clearly designed by someone who knows how to make a entrance.

"This garden is unique for two reasons," says its creator, Naomi Barin of Dangar Barin Smith. First, that paperbark, more than eight metres tall, is a head-turner: "Native trees of that scale and maturity never transplant easily." And, second, the lack of a physical boundary. "The generous open frontage shares with and gives back to the street." Another standout is less immediately apparent – the multi-layered welcome mat and everything beyond comprises native species.

It's a tantalising hint of what lies beyond. Concrete paving in dynamic shapes, randomly laid, creates a journey to the front door under the two cabbage palms (*Livistona australis*) and native hibiscus (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*). From there, house and garden are intricately interwoven with greenery pervading each room. To that end, Naomi collaborated closely with Anthony Gill Architects.

"WE WANTED TO SURROUND OURSELVES WITH GARDEN AND MAKE THE MOST OF THE SETTING."

*Bill, owner*

Owners Bill and Kate, now with three children under 10, bought the property mere blocks from Bondi Beach in 2020. "I'm a builder," says Bill. "A freestanding house on such a sizeable lot was a special find." But the hapless house had to go and so, too, the paved front yard and rear garden with frangipanis – fortunately, all transplanted elsewhere. Architect and designer were presented with a blank slate (almost). It was surrounded by neighbours on three sides, most pointedly a shopfront with a high wall on the left. "The biggest challenge was how to conceal that wall while also shielding the home from its neighbours," says Naomi. The sandy soil also limited what she could plant, even with the 450mm soil depth trucked in.

The couple were relaxed in their brief. "They wanted pool and garden visible from the kitchen and dining area, with clear lines of sight to mind the children, while considering the local landscape," says Naomi. That last stipulation translated to an omnipresent garden. "We wanted to surround ourselves with garden and make the most of the setting," says Bill. And natives, inside and out. "It seemed the responsible way of planting. Plants endemic to the area flourish here, with low maintenance and little watering. They suited the house and its restrained, minimal materials such as concrete and brickwork."

What results is a series of outdoor rooms, as well as a courtyard on the lower level. Upstairs, sliding doors on all four bedrooms open to planters all under polycarbonate corrugated sheeting, specified by Anthony, to ensure privacy and filter the light. On that level, too, is the garage roof and its gardening opportunities.

Planting at the back boasts a small lawn and reprises the paperbark and cabbage trees, together with banksias and blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) for screening, the latter particularly attracting birds and butterflies. "There's a lot in a small space. Everything has a purpose," says Naomi.

The courtyard features a cabbage tree that "doesn't use too much space and the smallish canopy doesn't block the light". Meanwhile, the upstairs planters, with the sunlight tempered by the opaque corrugated polycarbonate, required a different approach. While Naomi used Aussie natives once again, she turned to Queensland rainforest species, such as native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*), bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium australasicum* and *Asplenium nidus*) and bower vines (*Pandorea jasminoides*), the latter also trailing down from the garage roof.

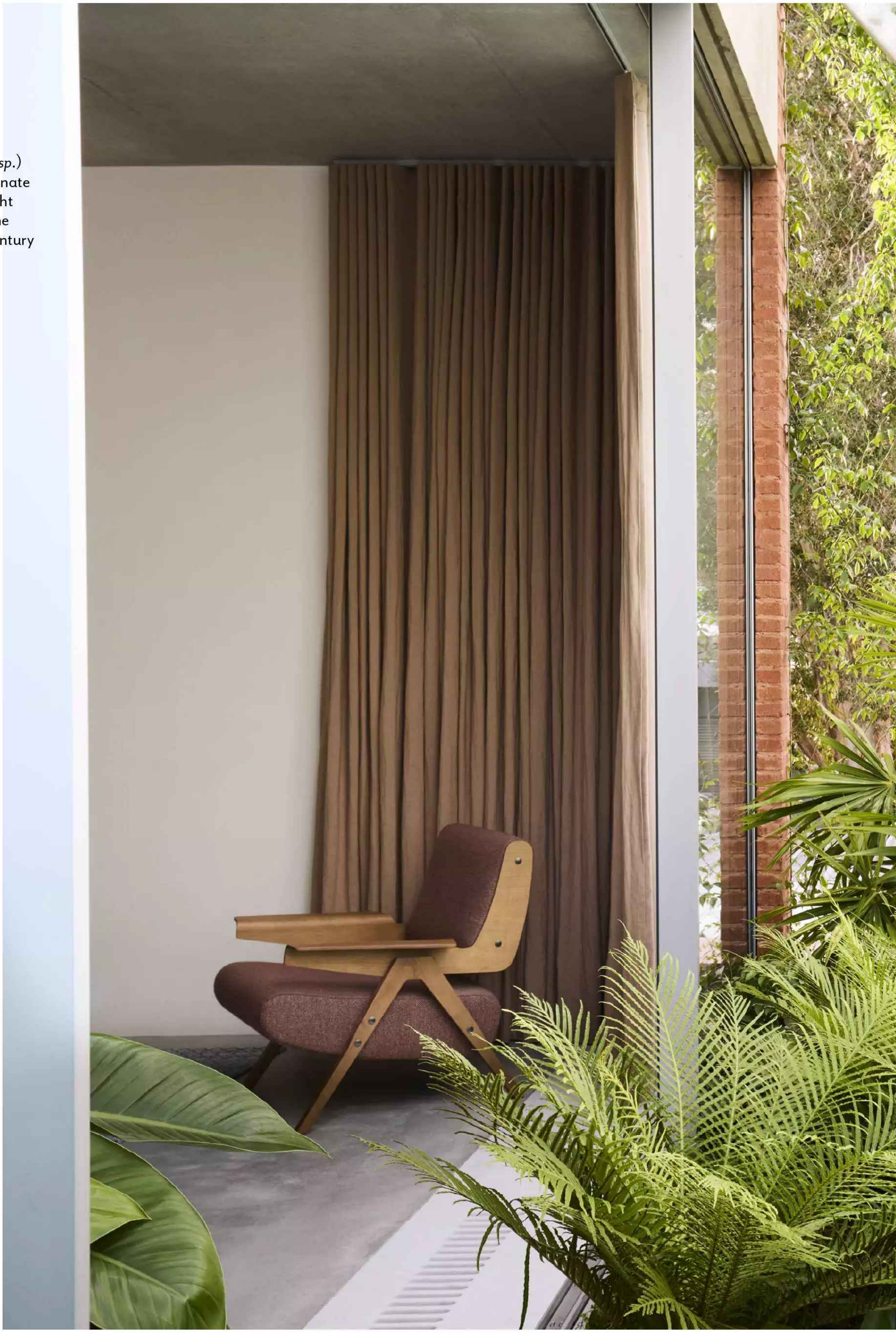
Hardscaping is kept to a minimum, echoing the concrete used in the interior, "shaped in geometrics and separated by threads of planting", together with Nepean River gravel on side paths. And, rather than battens or fencing plants for screening, Naomi has woven maidenhair vine (*Muehlenbeckia sp.*) through mesh as a green fence at the side boundary, and for screening at the open front she has turned to a native cycad, burrawang (*Macrozamia communis*), and finger limes (*Citrus australasica*).

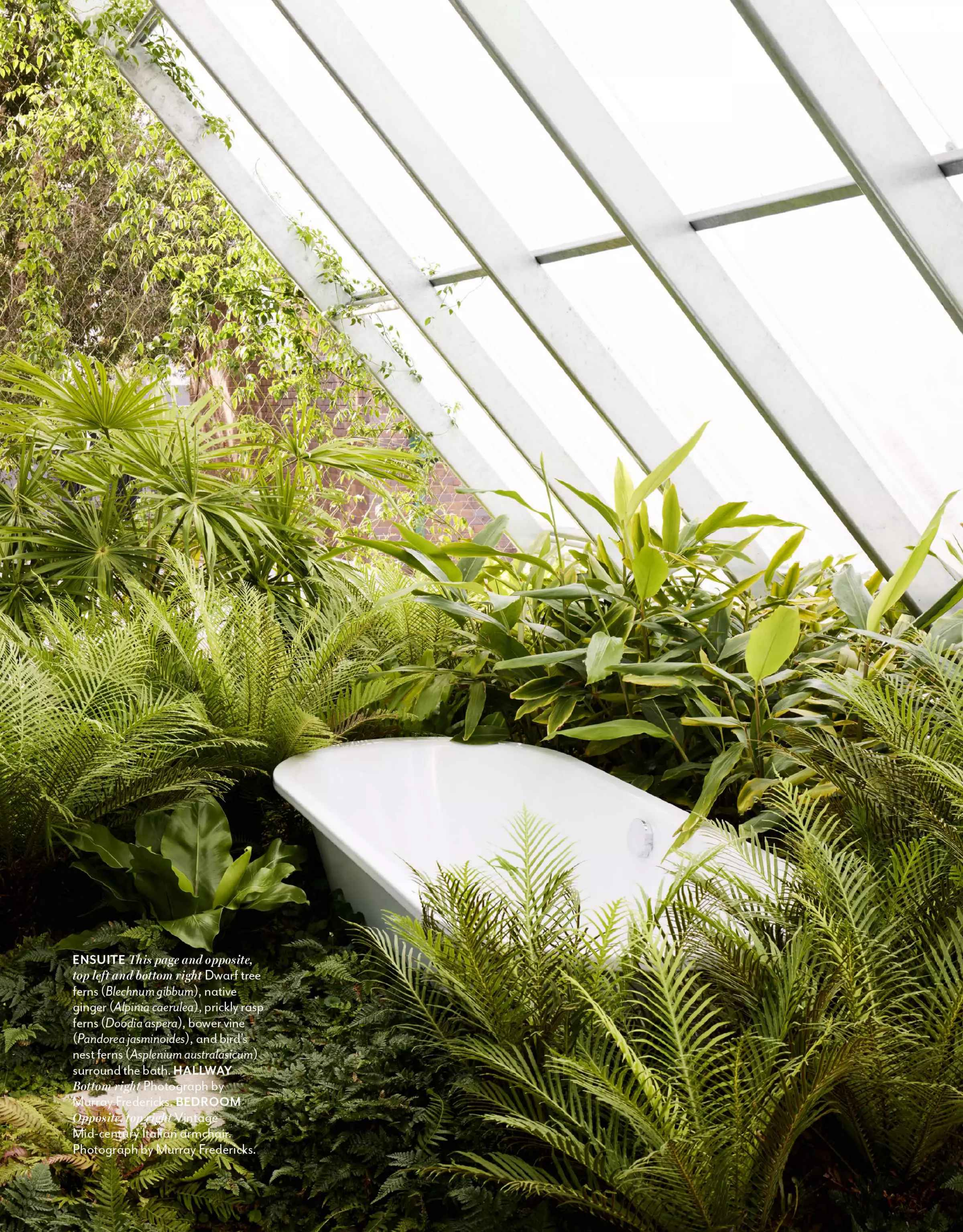
Eschewing that front fence has resulted in both the owner and designer's favourite garden feature. "There was not one tree on site – what a transformation those mature cabbage trees and paperbark have made," says Bill. "The street sees a garden rather than a fence," adds Naomi. "The landscaping softens the architecture. Its randomness creates a big hug." **H&G**

***Dangar Barin Smith:*** *dangarbarinsmith.com.au.* ***Anthony Gill Architects:*** *gillarchitects.com.au.* ***Design Daily:*** *designdaily.com.au.*

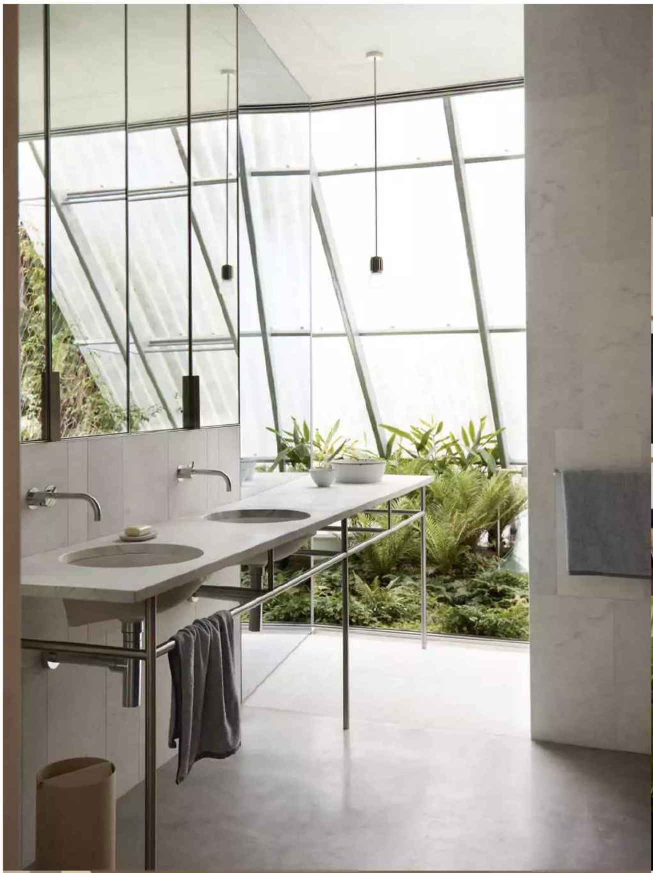
**MEDIA ROOM** *Opposite* A lacy tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*) and a broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) are framed by the expansive window. B&B Italia 'Tufty-Too' sofa by Patricia Urquiola, Space. Oluce 'Pascal' floor lamp by Vico Magistretti, Euroluce.

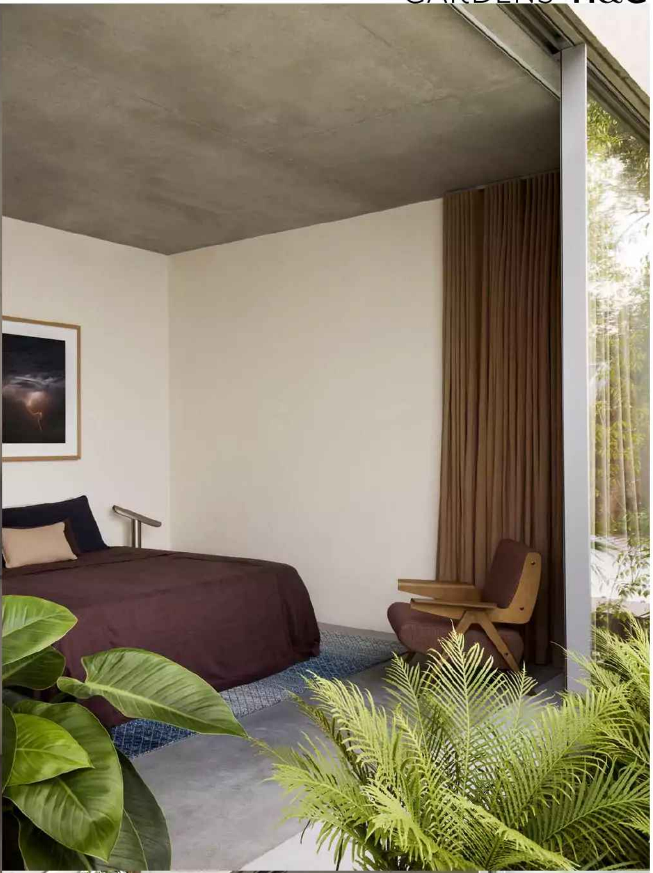
**BEDROOM** A dwarf tree fern (*Blechnum gibbum*) and philodendron (*Philodendron sp.*) flourish under the polycarbonate sheeting, which filters the light and provides privacy from the neighbours. Vintage Mid-century Italian armchair.

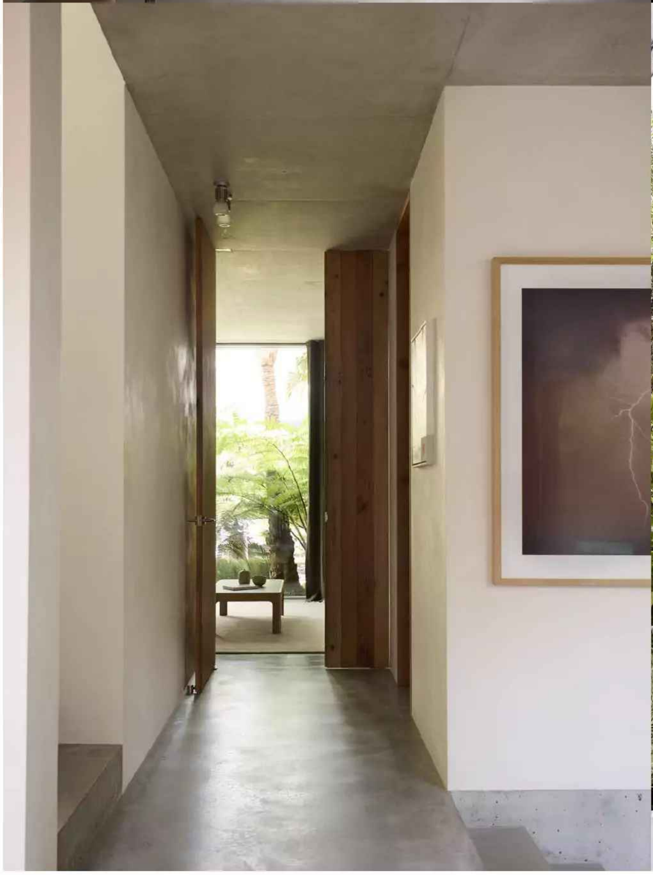




**ENSUITE** *This page and opposite, top left and bottom right* Dwarf tree ferns (*Blechnum gibbum*), native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*), prickly rasp ferns (*Doodia aspera*), bower vine (*Pandorea jasminoides*), and bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium australasicum*) surround the bath. **HALLWAY** *Bottom right* Photograph by Murray Fredericks. **BEDROOM** *Opposite, top right* Vintage Mid-century Italian armchair. Photograph by Murray Fredericks.







## PLANT LIST

### TREES

Banksia
(*Banksia integrifolia*)
Blueberry ash
(*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*)
Broad-leafed paperbark
(*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)
Cabbage tree palm
(*Livistona australis*)
Lacy tree fern
(*Cyathea cooperi*)
Native hibiscus
(*Hibiscus tiliaceus*)

### FERNS & SHRUBS

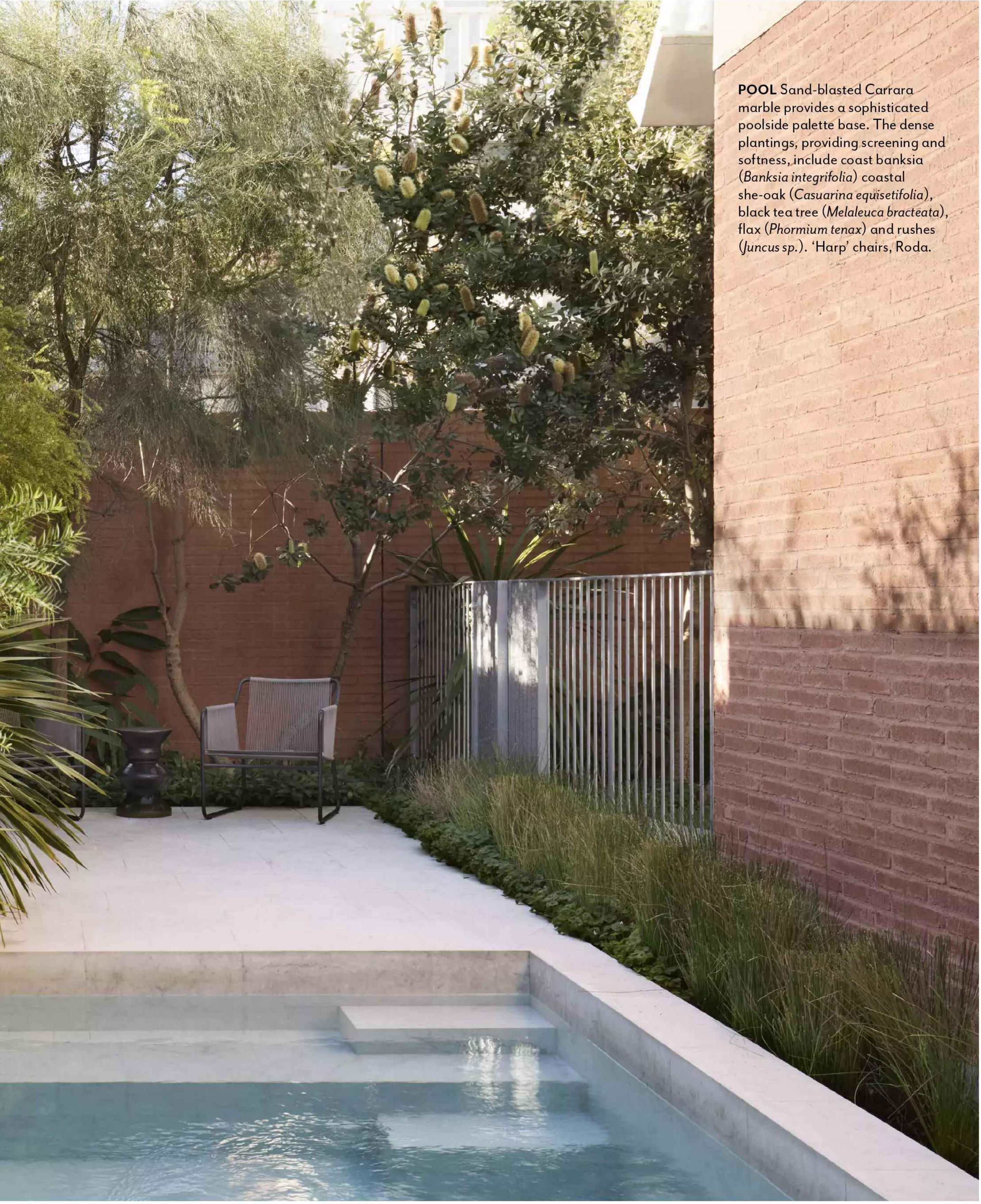
Burrawang
(*Macrozamia communis*)
Finger lime
(*Citrus australasica*)
Fishbone fern (*Blechnum*)
Gymea lily
(*Doryanthes excelsa*)
Prickly rasp fern
(*Doodia aspera*)

### CLIMBERS

Bower vine
(*Pandorea jasminoides*)

### GROUNDCOVERS

Maidenhair vine
(*Muehlenbeckia complexa*)
Native violet (*Viola hederacea*)



**POOL** Sand-blasted Carrara marble provides a sophisticated poolside palette base. The dense plantings, providing screening and softness, include coast banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) coastal she-oak (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), black tea tree (*Melaleuca bracteata*), flax (*Phormium tenax*) and rushes (*Juncus sp.*). 'Harp' chairs, Roda.

Natural Order
Dangar Barin Smith

*Natural Order* by Dangar Barin Smith ($80, Formist) features 20 contemporary gardens designs, captured by Prue Ruscoe and explored via interviews with editor Karen McCartney.

# QUIET CORNER

Invite tranquillity into the garden with accessories and chic pieces to help you enjoy your peaceful patch.

1

2

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Produced by Marissa Foye.

**1** 'Satroka' bucket **hat**, $160, Tanora. **2** 'Billie' **clog** in Seafoam, $119.95, Merry People. **3** Asian olive **bonsai**, $475, Bonsai at the Bay. **4** Diptyque 'Temple des Mousses' premium **scented candle**, from $184, Mecca. **5** Herbar 'The Gua-Shroom' **gua sha** facial tool, $62, Mecca. **6** Rusted cast-iron clam shell **bird bath**, $320, Orient House. **7** Perfumer H **incense holder**, $241, Mecca. **8** 'Pelican' outdoor **ottoman** in Green, $149, Domayne. **9** Nousaku **wind chime** horn $117, Normcore Fragrance. **H&G**

# *Where are the* WILD THINGS?

Art meets advocacy in the work of artist Leila Jeffreys, highlighting the beauty of native birds to raise awareness of their need for protection.

STORY *Victoria Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Leila Jeffreys*

> “Birdwatching used to be the daggiest thing you could ever do. It has changed.”
>
> LEILA JEFFREYS, VISUAL ARTIST

It’s almost impossible to say whether visual artist Leila Jeffreys is a photographer or bird ambassador, the two roles are so inextricably linked for her. “Animal obsessed” since her childhood in Riverton, Western Australia, she recalls the influence of her “nature lover” father and the paperbark trees that lined the river near their home. “Birds registered with me from a very early age,” she says. In her twenties, working as a photo editor in Sydney, she realised she missed the wildness of home. “I became a bit of a backyard birdwatcher,” she says. “The beautiful thing about birds is that they’re the one type of wildlife we all experience every day of our lives.”

Leila’s avian calling eventually manifested itself in her creative practice - her bird-centric photography, film and installation works have been exhibited globally, and she has published three books including *Interview with a Cockatoo (or Two)* (2013) and *Birdland* (2015). Today you would recognise her human-scale depictions of penguins, kiwis and owls presented “so that you are looking at an equal, you’re not looking at a lesser,” she explains.

## MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

That sense of intimacy - of drawing the viewer’s attention to the splendour that is often right in front of us - is what Leila also channels into her advocacy work. And she explains that the issue capturing her attention is far from glamorous: Second-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (SGARs), the common “one-feed” rat poisons sold at supermarkets and hardware stores.

They’re efficient, albeit unregulated, killers wreaking havoc on Australia’s owl and bird-of-prey community.

Dr Holly Parsons, manager of priority sites at bird conservation organisation BirdLife Australia, describes the paradox of Australia’s suburbs: they’re full of birds and yet increasingly hostile to them.

“Some birds are doing really well, but the majority of them [are] struggling and being found in smaller and smaller patches in urban areas.” The reasons are predictable: bigger houses on smaller blocks, developments clearing large amounts of vegetation, busy roads, domestic pets and - crucially - rat poison.

It’s this last point that links Leila’s art to Dr Holly’s science. “Owls in particular are susceptible to rat poison because they eat the poisoned rats or the poisoned wildlife,” she says. “They are impacted by what we call secondary poisoning.”

Developed in the ’70s and ’80s, SGARs are typically sold at Coles, Woolworths or Bunnings as colourful pellets, wax blocks or soft throw packs. They’re designed to kill rats and mice quickly. And because these toxins linger in a rodent’s body long after it dies, any owl, hawk, kookaburra or pet that eats it can be poisoned too. The result is a devastating, but difficult to quantify, ripple effect.

“We know that [the poison] can impede [birds’] ability to hunt properly, make them more susceptible to things like car strike, and increase the risk of malnutrition and parasitism,” says Holly. She concedes it’s hard to know exactly what the impact is on populations without costly exploration. It’s difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of death.

However, recent research on powerful owls by BirdLife found that “of the 38 livers we tested, 37 of them had rodenticide in them,” says Dr Holly. Other studies on boobook owls show similar results.

At Deakin University, associate professor John White hadn’t planned to study rodenticides. ▶

Photograph opposite of *Darcy* (brown falcon) by Leila Jeffreys. Photograph of Leila Jeffreys in studio with tawny frogmouths by Sam Scrimshaw for Nikon.

*Above* Artist Leila Jeffreys with one of her feathered subjects. *Opposite* Installation view of Leila Jeffreys' 'Prey' series at Olsen Gallery in Woollahra, NSW. Created over three years in collaboration with wildlife rescue centres across Australia, the 2014 show presented human-size portraits of birds of prey, including *Harriet Powerful Owl* (left) and *Tani No 2 Masked Owl* (right), allowing each bird to meet the viewer as an equal.

"During lockdowns in 2020, we seemed to get a few more powerful owls coming into our lab that had died," he says. "Honestly, we didn't expect to because they don't eat rats."

However, when the team at Deakin ran toxicology tests on 150 common ringtail and common brushtail possums, the results showed that they were full of poison. So the owls were ingesting poison each time they ate one of these possums. The cruel irony, John says, is that owls control rats and mice. If poisons weren't used, there would likely be more owls to keep these pests under control.

At WIRES, Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation, media officer John Grant says carers see these consequences regularly. "Birds have a high metabolic rate and succumb quickly to poisons."

All eyes are now on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the Federal body that controls the availability of these rodent poisons, which has been conducting a review for years. "They're due to hand down their decision as to whether these products should be available in the country," says BirdLife Australia's Holly Parsons [at the time of writing].

BirdLife Australia's position is simple: take these second-generation poisons off retail shelves.

"[Selling these rodent poisons] puts the impetus back on the consumer to be able to identify all the different chemical names. That is a lot to put on people," says Holly.

More than 50 councils have removed SGARs from their pest-control contracts.

Leila believes awareness grows through affection. Her recent installation works with filmmaker Melvin J. Montalban capture birds in extreme slow motion, "so people get to see the thing that they miss so clearly".

Awe, she says, is transformative. "Once you start showing how magnificent these birds are, you can't help but fall in love with them," says Leila. "And then you can't help but want to support their cause."

She's noticed a shift in culture, too. "Birdwatching used to be the daggiest thing you could ever do. It has changed," she says, laughing.

Leila's optimism is rooted in that reconnection. Her large scale artworks conjure an experience of love for her subjects, which evokes empathy for the plight of these majestic birds.

## LEADING THE CHARGE

As far as solutions go, they appear simple: clean up, seal up, trap rodents indoors (Holly recommends the "old-fashioned snap trap"), or you can purchase safer bait products such as Ratsak Naturals – which works by causing dehydration – a product that is safer for humans and non-rodent pets.

John Grant from WIRES agrees and adds that if traps are necessary, they should be placed in a safe, covered spot away from the reach of children, pets and wildlife.

But the bigger positive shift may be psychological – a move from seeing wildlife as decoration to recognising it as one of our neighbours.

As John puts it, "As human development continues to encroach on wildlife habitat, we can all play an important role in providing and maintaining a safe and secure environment for our native animals so we can all live harmoniously."

Leila agrees: "People then become invested. Once the connection forms, I think magic can happen with the way we care for them." **H&G**

*Leila Jeffreys: leilajeffreys.com; olsengallery.com.*

“Once you start showing how magnificent these birds are, you can’t help but fall in love with them.”

LEILA JEFFREYS, VISUAL ARTIST

Photograph of Leila opposite by Wes Nel for Nikon. Photograph courtesy of Olsen Gallery and Leila Jeffreys.

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

# *In the February issue...*

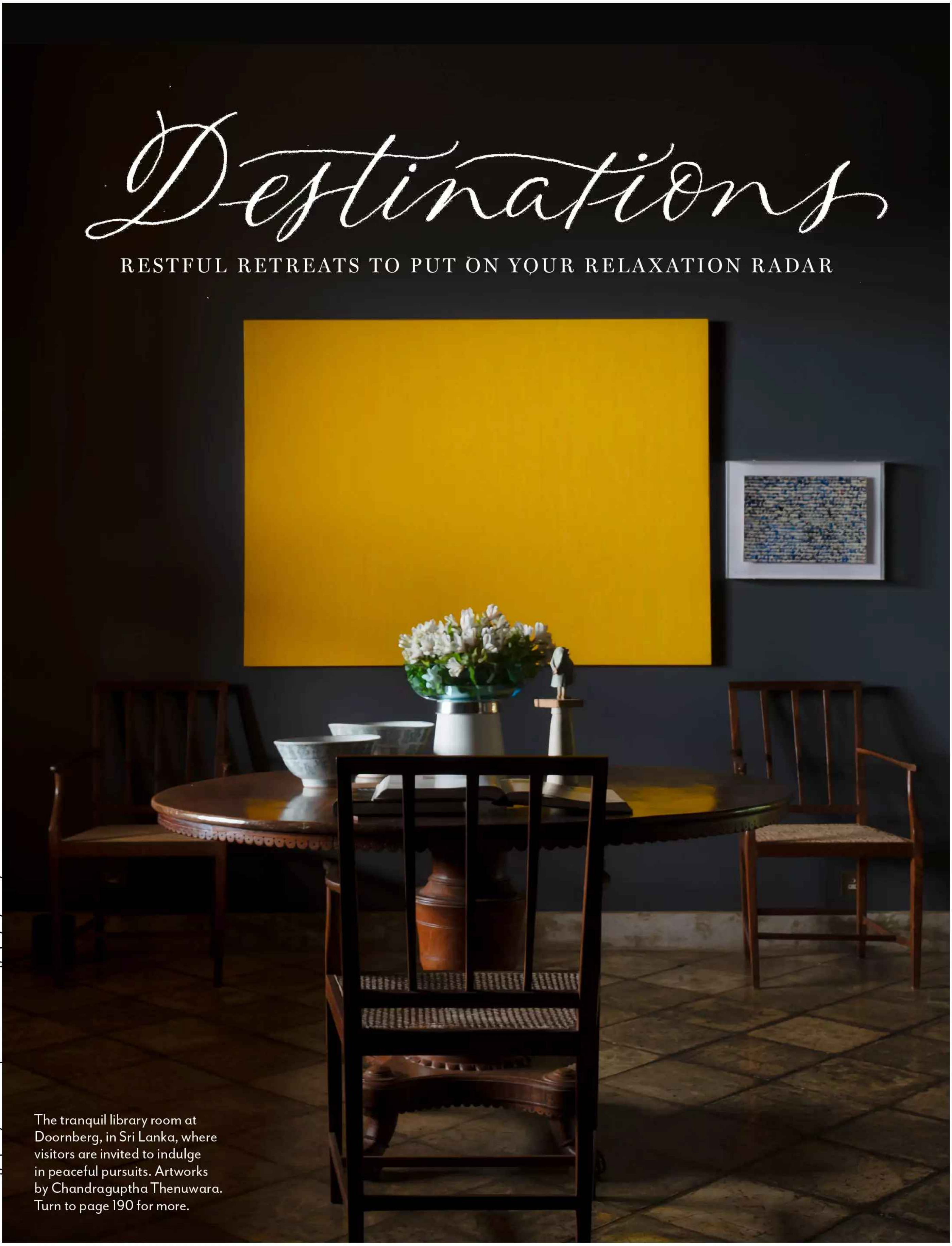
YOU'LL FIND OUR INSPIRING BEDROOM LOOKBOOK, SUMMER-FRUIT DESSERTS, CHIC DESTINATIONS AND BEAUTIFUL HOMES AND GARDENS.

ON SALE FROM
19
JANUARY

Photography by Anson Smart. Landscape design by Wyer & Co.

# Destinations

RESTFUL RETREATS TO PUT ON YOUR RELAXATION RADAR



The tranquil library room at Doornberg, in Sri Lanka, where visitors are invited to indulge in peaceful pursuits. Artworks by Chandraguptha Thenuwara. Turn to page 190 for more.

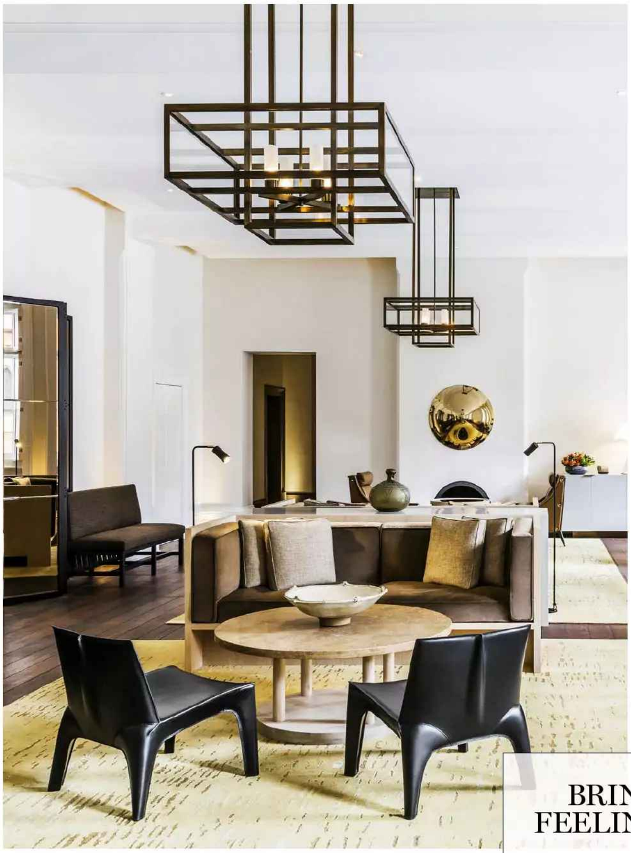
Photograph by Harin Katipearachchi. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

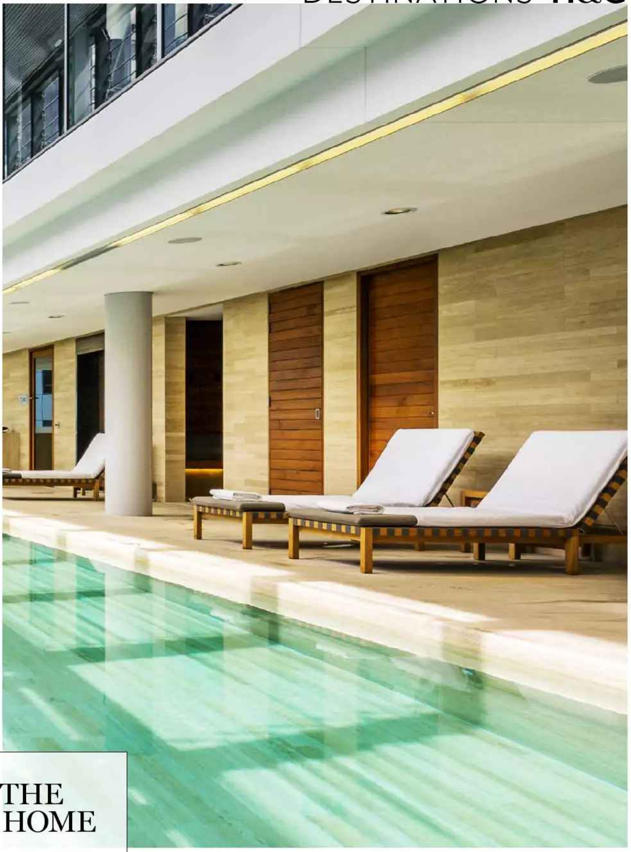
COMO THE TREASURY

# NEAR & FAR

A stylish stay in Perth sounds just about right, plus venture the road less travelled in Sri Lanka, where an 18th-century residence calls.

**BEHIND THE FACADE** After celebrating its 10th birthday in 2025, COMO The Treasury is far from resting on its laurels, continually refreshing itself with new experiences for visitors to Perth. **OPPOSITE** *Clockwise from top left* The Arrivals Lounge. Dip into wellness with a visit to the heated pool and gym facilities. Inside a Treasury Balcony Room with its sumptuous appointments.





| STORY *Andrea Black* |

There's good reason why Perth's COMO The Treasury was recently awarded a Michelin Key, the new accommodation equivalent of the highly coveted Michelin Star. Beyond the grand Victorian-era facade within the State Buildings, the 48 rooms and suites imbue quiet sophistication.

These former government offices were transformed by late architect Kerry Hill, who blended heritage design with contemporary opulence. Think high ceilings, giant windows and Juliet balconies alongside minimalist ivory hued rooms, with Egyptian cotton-clad king beds, a complimentary mini bar and fresh flowers. Let's not forget the grand bathrooms with heated travertine stone tiles underfoot, a giant bathtub (with COMO Shambhala bath salts) and a rejuvenating triple head shower.

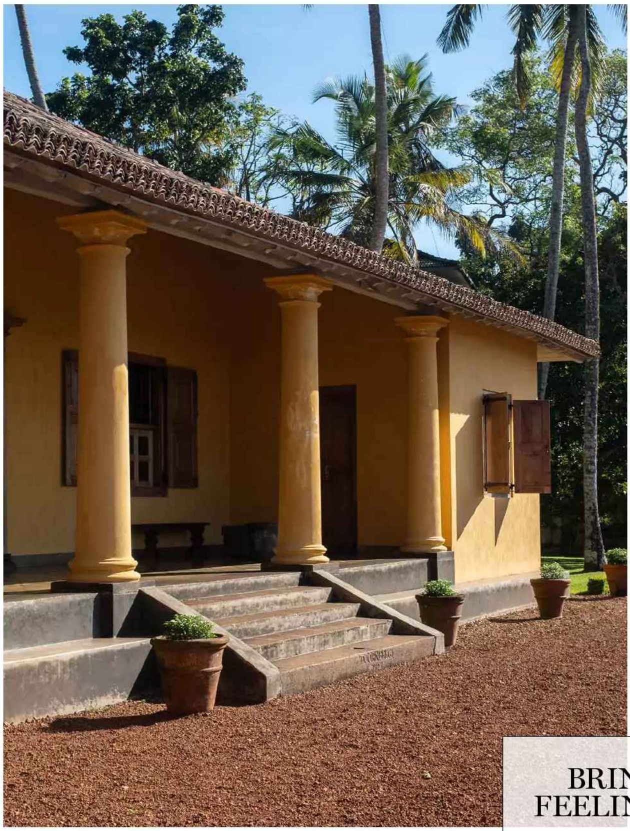
You'll never want to leave – well, unless you are heading to the heated pool or gym, or to the COMO Shambhala spa for a massage or quick 30-minute Sodashi 'Stop and Relax' facial. Even the check-in is a masterclass in understated luxury. No need to swan up to a counter, simply sit on a sofa and take in the architectural excellence with a glass of fizz. ▶ *The Treasury: comohotels.com/thetreasury.*

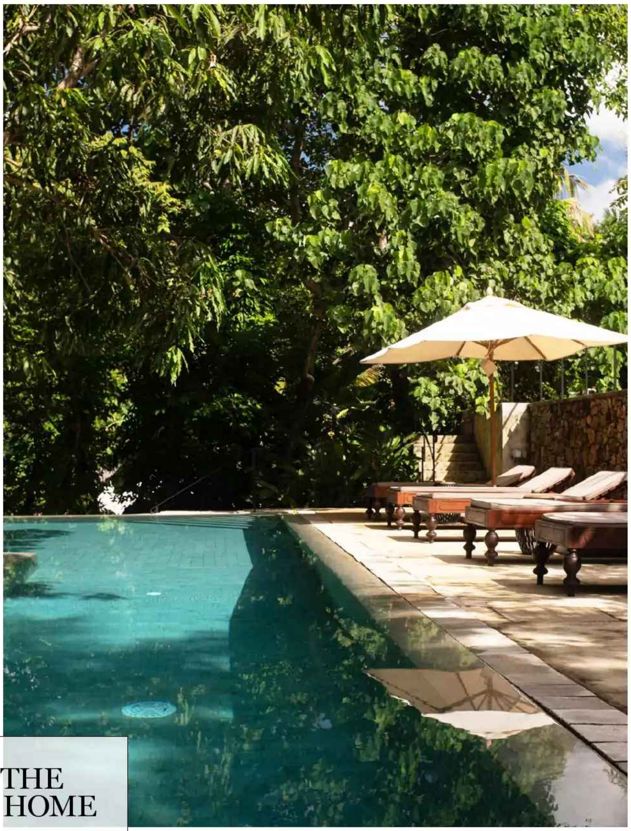
## BRING THE FEELING HOME

**SAVOUR SCENT**
For a sensory reminder of your stay, purchase COMO Shambhala's custom scent, Invigorate, a combination of essential oils.

**GO FLORAL**
Take inspiration from the sculptural native flower arrangements in the hotel. The State Buildings' onsite florist Fox and Rabbit often hold hands-on workshops.

**SHOP & SIP**
Love the hotel's tea? Visit Teassential Tea Store & Brew Bar for the signature ginger and lemongrass blend.





| STORY *Kirstie Clements* |

Doornberg is a carefully restored 18th-century property with four exquisite guest suites, located on Richmond Hill, overlooking the beautiful Bay of Galle and the historic Galle Fort, Sri Lanka.

The turmeric gold residence wraps around a central courtyard, featuring deep, polished concrete verandahs, soaring columns, shutters and ceiling fans. A rescued rose apple tree provides a shady spot for dining on the lawn, where gentle sea breezes offer welcome relief from the heat. The spacious, minimalist interiors are tropical modernism at its most generous: dark timber against white walls, four-poster beds laid with luxe hand-sewn linens. Understated, immaculate and authentic.

Upon arrival, guests receive an insider's guide to a spectrum of architecture, art, landscapes, exercise and wellness experiences in Galle and other parts of Sri Lanka. Among them is a morning trip to the seafood and vegetable markets, where guests can experience first-hand the farm-to-table approach taken by Doornberg's kitchen, which serves up light and healthful dishes on beautifully laid tables in the gardens or on the verandah. H&G

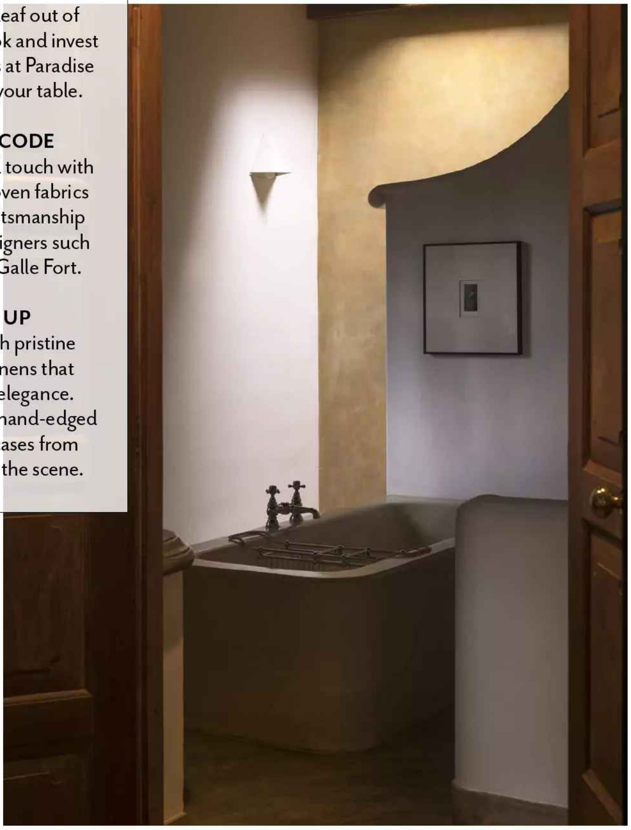
***Doornberg:** doornberggalle.com.*

## BRING THE FEELING HOME

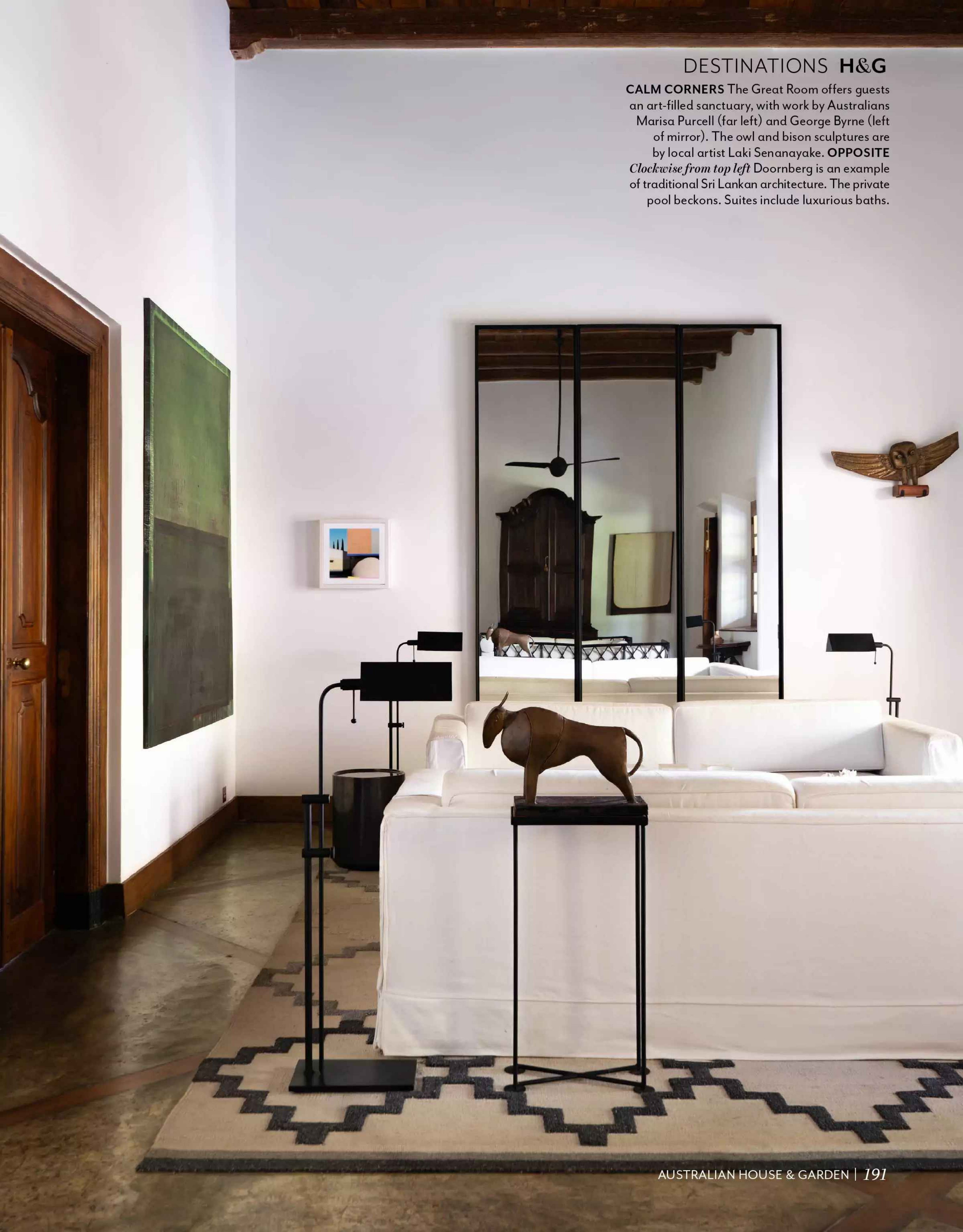
**SHOP LOCALLY**
Take an artful leaf out of Doornberg's book and invest in local ceramics at Paradise Road to dress your table.

**COLOUR CODE**
Add an artisanal touch with vibrant handwoven fabrics and ethical craftsmanship from textile designers such as Barefoot at Galle Fort.

**STOCK UP**
Bed down with pristine cottons and linens that evoke breezy elegance. Made-to-order, hand-edged cotton pillowcases from Cozy Linen set the scene.



Photography by Harin Katipearachchi (Great Room and pool) and Sebastian Posingis (facade and bathroom).



**CALM CORNERS** The Great Room offers guests an art-filled sanctuary, with work by Australians Marisa Purcell (far left) and George Byrne (left of mirror). The owl and bison sculptures are by local artist Laki Senanayake. **OPPOSITE** *Clockwise from top left* Doornberg is an example of traditional Sri Lankan architecture. The private pool beckons. Suites include luxurious baths.

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# AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

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# Overheard

**THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO OFFER GENERATIONAL TAKES ON HOME-LIFE DILEMMAS OVERHEARD FROM PERFECT STRANGERS. THIS MONTH: SPENDING BEFORE SELLING.**

**THE QUESTION**

“Should I renovate my home before I put it on the market for sale?”

*Isabella:* Investor Charlie Munger once said, to add value to a home, spend money on trees, and you will get it back triple. Well, Charlie, what happens if you’re in an apartment? Or don’t know where on earth to start? Don’t panic – it truly boils down to time, money or wherewithal to handle a renovation before selling.

I am a big believer in decluttering, painting and staging the home to sell. That said, it’s best to consider the market conditions and state of your property. If you’re eager to boost your property’s value, your thoughts probably turn to the classics: a new kitchen or spa-worthy bathroom. However, it’s important to consider that prospective homebuyers may be thrilled to discover a fixer-upper.

There are many tricks to get your property to sell well. Painting the walls and pulling up old carpet can freshen the house, even if the finishes are dated. Decluttering, washing windows and treating any lingering smells all help the house to show better.

Personally, managing renovations isn’t for me. I was recently in charge of overseeing the installation of a new front door at my mother’s home while she was travelling. I put my head down for 10 minutes – the next thing I knew, the contractor had left, the door was hung back-to-front and upside-down. After I worked out how to use the new door (don’t ask), I thought, ‘I won’t be turning myself into a subcontractor again in a hurry!’

On the flipside, my husband and I are looking to buy our next – but not ‘forever’ – house and we’ve concluded we need to be open to renovating. I’d spend money on adding a dressing room to whatever we buy, or an ensuite bathroom that we could borrow from a neighbouring spare room. Because truly, who doesn’t love putting their own stamp on their home? And if in doubt, we will plant trees and wait for them to work their magic.

*Melissa:* It’s a common predicament for those with a foot in the property market ‘door’. You want to sell your home, but the kids have scuffed the floors and chipped the paint. The kitchen could use a facelift and the lawn is lacklustre. Every seller must consider whether to sink money into their home before listing, but lately the stakes have grown as renovation costs skyrocket.

The consensus among real-estate agents I talk to: don’t go overboard. Some say they see some homes languish on the market, then a simple declutter, paint, clean and property staging (a total investment of around $20,000 for the owners) can easily bring in multiple offers and a sale in just a few weeks.

There is a high bar for doing costly work like remodelling the kitchen or adding a bathroom. Extra living space can add value, but only if it has a good purpose – an added metre to make a kitchen more spacious won’t increase a sale price. However, converting a loft into an extra bedroom with an ensuite should immediately result in an increase in value.

Unless you can remove your personal preferences from the process and focus on timeless style, I wouldn’t bother investing in a major renovation. Instead, think smaller. Shelling out small sums to punch up kerb appeal is likely to pay off. Replacing a garage or exterior doors is a good idea. It makes the house look better in listing photos and brings in buyers. Small-ticket jobs with big impact inside the house are worthwhile, too, such as refinishing weathered hardwood flooring. Refresh an old room with new cabinet pulls or modern light fixtures. Reglaze a bath. You might have trouble selling an apartment with red kitchen cabinets, but paint them white and watch the buyers circle.

Just remember, spending big to make it your dream home doesn’t make it someone else’s. **H&G**

Portrait photography by Alana Landsberry. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

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